

Peruvian to succeed Waldheim

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, a Peruvian diplomat, has been chosen by the Security Council to succeed Dr Kurt Waldheim as United Nations Secretary-General on January 1. Approval by a majority vote in the General Assembly is expected in the next few days. Señor Pérez de Cuellar, aged 61, will be the organization's first Secretary-General from Latin America. He will hold office for five years.

Alexeyeva can leave for West

Miss Lisa Alexeyeva, at the centre of Dr Andrei Sakharov's hunger strike protest, has been told by the Russian authorities she can leave for the West on Monday. They said she can also go to Gorky at once to see the Sakharovs. Page 4

Watership Down death verdict

UH Hinch, aged 43, was found not guilty of the manslaughter of his wife whose half-naked body was found on Watership Down, near Eccleswell, Hampshire in 1975. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for preventing her burial. Page 3

Home-loan rate cut ruled out

Any cut in mortgage rates in the near future was ruled out yesterday when building societies announced that their receipts last month slumped to £55m, the lowest for five years. They blamed the slump on the Government's drive to sell National Savings securities. Page 17

Lynda Chalker remarries

Mrs Lynda Chalker, aged 39, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, married Mr Clive Land at a private ceremony in London on Thursday. Mr Land, aged 36, is chairman of the Tory Reform Group. Mrs Chalker's marriage to Mr Eric Chalker was dissolved in 1973.

Prisoners claim to hold hostages

"Loyalist" prisoners denied freezing temperatures to continue their protest on the roof of the Crumlin Road prison, in Belfast, and claimed they were holding hostages, including four prison officers. Page 2

Use of vans in riots defended

Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday defended the tactic of using police vans driven at high speed to help disperse crowds during the riots in the city's Moss Side district in July. Page 3

Two German leaders meet

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has arrived for talks with his East German opposite number, Herr Erich Honecker, in a hunting lodge deep in the forests of Brandenburg. There are tense undercurrents for all the surface smiles. Page 4

New president

General Roberto Viola, president of Argentina, who suffered a heart attack four weeks ago, has been removed from his post by General Leopoldo Galtieri, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the leading member of the ruling junta, who is to assume the presidency himself. Page 5

BBC 'blunder'

Mr Alasdair Milne, setting out his aims as director-general of the BBC, admitted that the corporation might have "stumbled" over the £2.5m 10-part series, *The Borgias*. Page 3

Hurricane havoc

A hurricane with winds of up to 95 miles per hour has left thousands dead and at least two million homeless in the coastal regions of Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal and Orissa.

Discount tickets

British Airways, in defiance of government rules, is to sell illegally discounted air tickets over the counter from January 1. Page 2

Leader page 7

Letters: On university cuts, from Professor P. R. Ackroyd; and others: police and complaints, from Mr Michael Meacher, MP; evolution, from Professor J. M. Thoday. Leading articles: The two Germanies; the weather. Features, page 6. Chapman Pincher reopens the Hollis Affair; Can positive discrimination work in Britain?

Home News	2, 3	Parliament	15
Oceans News	4, 5	Religion	8
Arts	11	Sale Rooms	12
Bridge	12	Sat Review	9-14
Business	16-19	Science	2
Chess	14	Services	20, 21
Crossword	24	TV & Radio	22
Events	24	Theatre	23
Gardening	24	Travel	12
Law Report	24	Years Ago	13
Obituary	24	Weather	24

Nightmare for travellers as snow grips Britain

By Craig Seton

The most severe pre-Christmas weather for 31 years ripped many parts of Britain yesterday. Villages were cut off, roads closed, air and rail services disrupted and some commuters took hours to get to work or gave up the attempt. Four people, including two schoolboys, died when their train crashed in heavy snow outside London. The driver of the 7.31 am Marylebone to Banbury train, and a teenage student were the other two victims of the accident. It happened when the passenger train ran into the back of an empty train apparently halted by a fallen snow-laden tree. As the snow settled and hardened last night, the Meteorological Office, which reported temperatures in some areas falling to -13°C on Thursday night, gave a warning that there would be no easing in the freezing conditions over the weekend. The motoring organizations, after a day of chaos on many roads in England and Wales, warned drivers not to travel by car unless they had to. Rail and air services were slowly returning to something like normal last night. During the day Heathrow, Gatwick and other airports were closed for several hours by deep snow on runways and dozens of flights were delayed, cancelled or diverted, leaving thousands of passengers stranded. Euston station in London was a scene of confusion as many Luton-City cross-country and commuter rail services across the country were hours late or cancelled. London Transport again reported delays on Underground services in outer London areas. Snow up to 9 in deep fell in the Midlands and central Southern England yesterday. The London Weather Centre reported most of England and Wales, south of the Thames, and North Yorkshire were covered with snow. One exception was the south coast. In many areas yesterday's falls came on top of snow and slush left from earlier snowfalls, creating driving conditions ranging from dangerous to almost impossible. At midday yesterday the RAC reported "tales of woe, with more roads being blocked by accidents, jams or simply impassable every minute. The situation is absolutely chaotic." Heavy snow was also thought to have been responsible for slowing the hands of Big Ben down to a snail's pace yesterday. It seemed to have stopped at 12.26 pm, but in fact by 1.45 pm it was exactly an hour slow. Today's sporting programme has been badly affected. All

THE WEEKEND PROSPECTS

Some heavy snow is forecast in north and west Scotland, Ulster and areas bordering the Irish Sea today, but inland Britain will be dry with some hazy sunshine. Freezing fog will be persistent in places, but some showers near the coast of eastern England will die out. South-west Britain will become cloudy with rain or snow later. It will be very cold with frost in many areas and the outlook for the next few days is very cold, with snow in places and some freezing fog. Trace meetings have been cancelled and 39 league and second round FA cup matches have been cancelled, together with several rugby fixtures, both league and union. With motorists warned to keep off Britain's snowbound roads over the weekend, British Rail, which said the polar heaters had failed to cope with the snowfalls in many areas, said it could not provide what kind of service would be operated today. Travellers by air, facing a large backlog of flights caused by yesterday's cancellations and delays, have been told to contact their airline to check flights before setting out for airports. The Meteorological Office, which was sharply criticized earlier this week by British Rail and other organizations for not giving advance warning of the severity of Tuesday's snowfalls, said that it had given warnings of the new, heavy snowfalls. British Rail has faced one of its worst weeks for many years. After the repeated breakdowns of the Advanced Passenger Train and the severe disruption caused by Tuesday's snowstorms, its customers faced long delays again yesterday. Heathrow was again virtually under siege for a short time. After the cancellation of 14 long-haul flights during the night because of freezing fog, travellers bled down to the terminals overnight only to find thick snow preventing flights yesterday morning. Both runways were closed for nearly three hours because of heavy snow and by mid-afternoon only 55 flights had been handled instead of the normal daily total of 600 to 700. Chaos in the regions, and Science report, page 2; leading article, page 7; weather forecast and Information Service, back page.



Hampered: Heavy snow adds to the load of rescue workers removing the dead and injured from the wreckage.

Four die in school train crash

By Frances Gibb

Four people were killed, including two 12-year-old schoolboys, when a passenger train ploughed into the back of another train standing empty in a blinding blizzard near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. The crash, in which 30 people were injured, five seriously, happened at 8.15 am in a remote, tree-flanked cutting half a mile south of Seer Green station on the Marylebone to Banbury line. The passenger train, carrying about 100 people, including many schoolchildren, had left Marylebone six minutes after the empty train. Signals should have prevented its entering the same section of track as the stationary train. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, and BR Board members last night offered their "deepest sympathy to the relatives of the dead" and their "hopes for the early recovery of those injured." The crash, which the two schoolboys, both from the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, the driver of the second train and an 18-year-old male student. The injured were taken to Wexham Park Hospital. Though police have not disclosed any name. It is thought the driver of the first train, who was heading empty, for Gerard Cross, had stopped to inform signalmen of a snow-laden tree which had fallen on to one of his carriages. The passenger train, carrying about 100 people, including many schoolchildren, had left Marylebone six minutes after the empty train. Signals should have prevented its entering the same section of track as the stationary train. Driving snow and the inaccessible site of the crash severely hampered rescuers and it was more than three hours before all the victims were cut free from the wreckage and taken to the hospital nine miles away. Firemen, doctors and ambulance men had to walk along the track, which is flanked on each side by steep, tree-covered banks to get to the site with cutting and medical equipment. A special service train was run from Seer Green station to bring back the dead and injured. Mr Brian Goodwin, Buckinghamshire's deputy chief fire officer, said: "To get to the scene, we had to climb down a 120 ft embankment. The entire area is covered with six inches of snow and it was almost impossible for ambulances to reach it." All the dead, and injured were in the first compartment of the 7.31 Marylebone to Banbury train. One of them, Mr Norman Wilks, aged 40, was trapped when the partition between the driver's cab and the first compartment collapsed on his legs. He said: "It was a nightmare. I could hear the cries of children. They caught the full impact and were obviously in agony. But I could not even see to help them. Everything was covered in debris." It took firemen 30 minutes to free Mr Wilks, a piano tuner, of Harrow Weald, Middlesex. Last night he was recovering in hospital with 38



APT halted by power breakdown

By Michael Bailly

Transport Correspondent

The Advanced Passenger Train ended an ignominious first week yesterday, still spluttering egg on British Rail faces. The train suffered a total power failure—locomotive, lighting, and heating—south of Preston on its way back up north and had to be towed into a siding for repairs. There were nearly a hundred people on board, straggling northward after the APT had been turned back at Crewe because the weather had closed Euston and blocked the line south of Rugby. Snow on the APT's return after an 11-minute delay south of Glasgow, because of iced-up power wires, proceeded down to Crewe in fine style, arriving there 27 minutes late. The extra delay was caused by congestion on the line because of snow and ice and was not the fault of the APT, British Rail said. The train turned back and set off north, again performing well until just south of Preston where it bowed out of its long-awaited first week in service much as it had begun it. For British Rail, who repose such hopes in APT as their Inter-City train of the future, and who delay its debut so many times to be sure of getting it right, it has been a tragic and pathetic performance. The Advanced Passenger Train ended an ignominious first week yesterday, still spluttering egg on British Rail faces. The train suffered a total power failure—locomotive, lighting, and heating—south of Preston on its way back up north and had to be towed into a siding for repairs. There were nearly a hundred people on board, straggling northward after the APT had been turned back at Crewe because the weather had closed Euston and blocked the line south of Rugby. Snow on the APT's return after an 11-minute delay south of Glasgow, because of iced-up power wires, proceeded down to Crewe in fine style, arriving there 27 minutes late. The extra delay was caused by congestion on the line because of snow and ice and was not the fault of the APT, British Rail said. The train turned back and set off north, again performing well until just south of Preston where it bowed out of its long-awaited first week in service much as it had begun it. For British Rail, who repose such hopes in APT as their Inter-City train of the future, and who delay its debut so many times to be sure of getting it right, it has been a tragic and pathetic performance.

US firms set to quit Libya

From Nicholas Hirst

Washington, Dec 11

United States companies, including the multinational oil companies, are preparing to pull their American employees out of Libya today, in line with President Reagan's request. "Our judgment of the initial reaction is that the companies are cooperating," a White House spokesman said. The request and the decision to invalidate passports for travel to Libya, are regarded here as the minimum the Administration could have done in the light of American allegations against Libya, which is accused of supporting international terrorism and undermining United States interests. It is also alleged that a Libyan team has been sent to assassinate President Reagan. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said today that the next move would be up to Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. The Administration had not gone as far as to consider freezing Libyan assets in the United States. Mr Regan thought Colonel Gaddafi could ease the situation, but did not elaborate. The main concern is the safety of Americans in Libya. The decision to pull them out was made because of the danger the Gaddafi regime posed, according to officials. The White House spokesman said the Administration hoped Colonel Gaddafi would continue to honour his word that Americans were free to leave. □ Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, told a press conference in London that the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was ready if necessary to evacuate Americans from Libya. "It is there with a number of ships. It is ready to respond." Gaddafi success, Page 4

Foot offensive 'too late to save party'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, after one of the most dramatic weeks of his leadership of the Labour Party, was told yesterday by the two latest defectors from his ranks in the Commons that his offensive against the hard left had come too late to save the party. But as Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, MP for Aberystwyth, and a good friend of the Labour leader, became the Social Democratic Party's twenty-sixth MP, the man who seemed set to be the twenty-seventh, Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, threw the SDP into difficulties by announcing his determination to fight a by-election in his constituency of Merton, Mitcham and Morden. Mr Douglas-Mann announced yesterday that he had decided to apply to join the SDP but, against the advice of friends in the party, he intends to fight a by-election because of a change of mind over Britain's membership of the EEC. Having fought the last election as an anti-Marketeer he wants Britain to remain a member, he told a press conference at Westminster. That has put him in a different position from the other Labour MP, who has moved to the SDP without facing the need to submit themselves to by-elections. He said that he hoped the SDP would accept him as a candidate, although he acknowledged that the party's policy was not to fight by-elections in the seats of defecting MPs, but if he was not permitted to do so he would fight it as an independent socialist democrat, provided the writ for a by-election was moved and accepted by the Commons. Leaders of the SDP are privately angry with Mr Douglas-Mann and regard his actions as self-indulgent. They feel that rather than forcing a by-election on the SDP issue he could have explained his change of mind. The party is anxious not to waste resources on what it regards as unnecessary by-elections. It feels that Mr Douglas-Mann is creating difficulties for himself. If Mr Douglas-Mann persists on the course he has adopted he would first have to go through the Merton area party's selection procedure. The party, which has what it regards as several strong possible parliamentary candidates, is reluctant to join us, but is motion saying that no one joining the SDP should have the automatic right to stand as a candidate. Mr Douglas-Mann agreed that he was taking a risk. If he was not accepted as an SDP candidate, he would have an Alliance candidate against him at the by-election, he would have to finance his campaign and he would lose. □ Mrs Morelle Forster, chairman of the Merton SDP, said last night: "Mr Douglas-Mann is welcome to join us, but we are to whether he is automatically adopted as our candidate is another story altogether." (The Press Association reports). Merton, Mitcham and Morden, 1972 general election: Douglas-Mann, P. L. H. (Lab) 21,568; Samuel, D. C. (C) 21,050; Locke, R. (L) 4,232; Perryman, J. (Nat Front) 966. Lab maj: 618. Text of Thomas letter, page 2

US will take 5 years to close missile gap

By Henry Stambrope, Defence Correspondent

If the Soviet Union launched a surprise attack against the United States tomorrow it could obliterate 95 per cent of American land-based strategic missiles, a high-ranking American official said yesterday. This would leave the United States with two per cent of the missiles to prevent the Russians from carrying out a destructive second strike if Washington retaliated, he said in an interview with *The Times*. Submarine-launched missiles like Trident—which Britain is buying to replace Polaris—had better chances of surviving, but lacked the accuracy, range and numbers necessary, and the command and control of an underwater force was a source of great worry. "The window of vulnerability" was beginning to open, and the United States would not start to close it until after 1985 when new weapons were scheduled to come into service, like the B-1 bomber in 1986, the B-2 "Stealth" bomber in 1989, and the land-based mobile missile MX which would start coming off the production lines in 1985 itself. MX, which will have 10 warheads and a range of 17,000 miles, will be more accurate than the first B-2 deployed in old Titan and Minuteman silos. The United States is still studying a more permanent method of basing missiles which would reduce its vulnerability to a Soviet strike. An airborne patrol or deep underground sites were among the possibilities, the official said. Meanwhile, the Russians were producing weapons ordered during the 1970s while the Americans were reducing their own. The B-52 would probably lose that ability by around 1985-86, against a threat "in our immediate backyard". The Soviet Union had perfected a re-launch technique for dispatching more than one missile from the same silo. This meant that, even if the Americans could knock out all but 10 or 12 or 30 per cent of Soviet missiles in one strike, the Russians could effectively double that number by using each silo twice. The Americans had to do something about hardening their own missile sites, ensuring that they could get weapons into the air before it was too late, and improving their accuracy. If the Americans did not act to close the gap would widen to the extent that the Russians, with their re-launch capability, might feel able to launch a first strike against the United States without the fear of unacceptable retaliation. The most hopeful development would be that of an adequate ballistic missile defence (BMD) system. The superpowers allowed themselves one anti-ballistic missile system each under the terms of the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT 1) and the Russians have put one around Moscow. But the Americans abandoned their project around a "Missileman" complex in North Dakota because of the expense and doubts over its effectiveness. Turning to American pre-occupations elsewhere in the world, he said that in El Salvador the United States was witnessing a Marxist-inspired guerrilla operation resupplied through Nicaragua and Cuba and originating in the Soviet Union. That could become very serious and make it seem necessary to the United States to bring home "our somewhat limited forces" to defend against a threat "in our immediate backyard".

Now: 10 flights to South Africa every week!

Advertisement for South African Airways (SAA) showing flight routes and schedules. It includes a map of Africa and a table of flight frequencies.

Day	From	To
Tuesday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Wednesday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Thursday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Friday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Saturday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG
Sunday	JOHANNESBURG	JOHANNESBURG

With the introduction of another direct flight to Cape Town, SAA now more than ever offers the Lion's Share! Only SAA has such a wide choice of flights from London to South Africa - 10 a week (including 3 non-stop). Only SAA has fast connecting flights to 12 internal destinations. Include our reputation for superb in-flight service, comfort and hospitality plus our new first class Skymileseers and our new Gold Class, and you'll see what we mean by the Lion's Share!

For full details call your IATA Travel Agent or SAA offices at: 259 Regent Street, London W1B 2AB. Tel: 01-474 8841. Birmingham: Tel: 01-212 443 8605. Manchester: Tel: 01-61 854 4936.

**SAA** SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

We offer you the Lion's Share



# Council leaders urged to meet on 7.8% pay offer

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Association of County Councils yesterday called for an urgent meeting of local authority leaders to discuss the implications of Thursday night's pay offer of between 6.3 and 7.8 per cent to a million manual workers.

The Conservative-dominated association, which made clear its concern about the level of the probable settlement in a letter to members, asked for a special meeting of the Local Authority Conditions of Service Advisory Board.

The move came as it was learnt that the employers' offer was agreed on the casting vote of Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour chairman from South Yorkshire, after a 17-17 split on political lines.

Mr John Horrell, ACC chairman, said yesterday that the Government was already expecting spending cuts next year of 4 per cent, or £700m. Those would be even greater if the wage settlements deviated from the Government's 4 per cent overall pay targets.

The ACC is thought to be especially anxious that the settlement could be seized on by leaders of teachers and local authority white collar workers in their negotiations. The two groups together account for about a million workers.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, employers' side secretary, said that the manual workers' offer should not be taken as a precedent for such groups, or others outside local authorities, such as hospital ancillary workers, who are nevertheless insisting on the public services and therefore subject to the Government's 4 per cent target.

The employers will certainly push hard to contain those groups to lower settlements: than the one for manuals, which is expected to add between 6 and 7 per cent to the wage bill.

The employers' groups for teachers and local council white collar workers, moreover, are likely to take a tougher line than their counterparts on the manual workers' joint council, since both bodies are understood to have Conservative majorities.

The fact that the teachers' and local government white collar workers' pay settlements last year did closely follow the manual workers' 7.5 per cent, compared with an overall target for last year of 6 per cent—and that union leaders have been quick to greet Thursday's probable settlement as a benchmark—clearly worried the ACC last night.

Although local authority manual workers are the biggest group of public service employees, it is the extent to which others follow it, rather than the settlement itself, which will probably determine how serious a dent it causes in the Government's public service pay policy.

Mr Rusbridge said on Thursday that the cash for the settlement would have to be raised from the rates or by cuts in jobs and services.

Employers emphasized last night that the impact of job cuts, a disproportionately high number of which have been falling on local authority manual workers, helped last year to ensure that the increase in the manual pay bill as a result of a 7.5 per

cent settlement was little more than 2 per cent.

A total of 81,578 manual jobs have gone in the last two years. The 3.4 per cent reduction last year in the manual workforce, coupled with parallel reductions in overtime and bonus earnings helped to ensure that last year's settlement cost less than a third of what was originally expected.

The Thursday deal, which still has to be ratified by union members, to whom it will be put without recommendation, yields £4.60 a week flat rate, as well as a one hour reduction from November next year.

Current basic rates, exclusive of overtime and bonuses, are as follows (with examples of jobs):

Grade A: Laboratory attendants, school crossing patrols, school cleaners and dining room assistants, £59.05.

Grade B: Car park labourers, general labourers, laboratory cleaners (mobile), public lighting attendants, school meals supervisory assistants, £60.10.

Grade C: Assistant gardeners, launderette attendants, in laundry attendants taking cash, £61.80.

Grade D: Abattoir labourer, car park attendant taking cash, general roadman, general sewerage, £65.

Grade E: Crematorium assistant, gardener, groomer, pool attendant, refuse collector, £67.50.

Grade F: Cook, crematorium attendant, skilled roadman, sewerage, £70.70.

Grade G: Cook in charge, heavy driver/plant operator, £73.50.



## Prison protesters claim to have hostages

"Loyalist" prisoners on remand at the Crumlin Road prison, in Belfast, continued their protest in pursuit of a number of demands yesterday in freezing conditions. The men claimed they were holding four prison officers and 13 republican prisoners as hostages.

Roads leading to the prison were sealed by troops and police, and Army marksmen were stationed in the area. About fifty prisoners were involved, and signs coming from the

prison yesterday afternoon indicated that the men had begun to break up their cells.

Mr Paisley said he felt Mr Mitchell had to give the Crumlin Road men the same facilities that had been granted to the republican hunger strikers at the Maze Prison.

The protesters were demanding to be segregated from republican prisoners and, among four other requests, were seeking improved recreational facilities.

Several prominent American politicians have written to Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, objecting to the granting of a visa for the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, to visit the United States (Our Washington Correspondent writes). Mr Thomas O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Daniel Moynihan have joined several members of Congress in writing to Mr Haig.

## Strike by clerks may end

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A breakthrough in negotiations over the long-running strike by the Liverpool Corporation clerical workers is expected to lead to a full resumption of work before Christmas. The 350 typists, secretaries and machine operators have been on strike for more than six months over pay and working conditions.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's management has been suspended without pay for refusing to cover for them.

## Defiant BA to offer discount tickets

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

British Airways is to go ahead with a controversial scheme to put illegally discounted air tickets on sale over the counter at regular high street travel agents despite government suggestions that the discount fares should first be filed with the Civil Aviation Authority.

The discounted tickets, to seven Far East destinations, including Tokyo and Singapore, will be closely competitive with the illegally discounted tickets that hitherto have been available mainly through discount agency outlets known as "bucket shops".

British Airways' over-the-counter supply runs for a year, with bookings being taken at high street travel agents from next Monday.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

Discount cost to Singapore return through the high street agents is likely to be about £430, a saving of 50 per cent on the full IATA tariff, although advanced passenger excursion (APEX) fares are readily available.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, compared with £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

able to be as low as £400. The British Airways tickets are going to high street agents for the first time officially.

Both the airline and ABTA admit that technically the move is illegal because it is a condition of an airline's operating licence that it does not discount tickets below a level filled with the CAA, which is also agreed with foreign governments involved in the flight destinations.

Because the British Government, like those abroad, has turned a blind eye to the bucket shop trade in discounted tickets, British Airways takes the view that with a "discretionary" licence, the chance of government action is slight.

But Lord Trevelyan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in the House of Lords on Thursday that the CAA had invited British Airways to file details of the new fare structure. He believed the processes of CAA approval could be completed in time for the start of the scheme in January.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details.

## Prison for ex-Tory candidate

A former Conservative parliamentary candidate was sentenced to six years' imprisonment yesterday on drug charges.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

Burns, 36, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for supplying a quantity of cocaine to a group of men in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas.

## Emergency wardens brought in to help

By Staff Reporters

As snowstorms swept across much of Britain yesterday, Gloucestershire County Council sent to isolated areas, called on emergency snow wardens in each village to organize clearance operations.

Dozens of snowbound villages were bypassed by snowploughs as the underused highways department concentrated on clearing main roads.

After a 6in overnight snowfall, hundreds of Gloucestershire schools were closed, many in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. All residents were told to stay at home unless their journey was essential.

The county ambulance service abandoned all non-emergency journeys.

Wales was one of the worst affected parts of Britain as snow fell in some parts of the principality. More than 100 snowploughs and 500 men were out clearing snow in Powys. Most main roads were cleared but accidents caused delays on two key routes.

The A5 Holyhead to London road was blocked for almost an hour after an accident involving a bus and a lorry. There were long delays on a South Wales valley road into Newport when a lorry jackknifed.

Water Hospital in North Wales was cut off after snow hampered the efforts of water authority workers trying to repair a broken main.

Thousands of schoolchildren throughout North Wales were sent home early, but at many schools only about half the pupils had turned up. Only one mountain pass was still blocked later yesterday by a bus and a lorry.

At Colwyn Bay staff from the Welsh Mountain Zoo shovelled 6in of snow from a playing field then cut a section of grass with a scythe. The grass was needed to feed thousands of locusts.

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

## Blizzards stretch resources

Local authorities struggling to keep roads clear of snow and ice are hoping that the extreme weather of the past few days will not be a prelude to the sort of hard winter experienced three years ago (Our Morning Correspondent writes).

They admit that a sustained spell of snow and freezing temperatures could severely stretch their resources, which are already limited by government demands to contain spending.

Devon County Council, which has 8,500 miles of roads to look after, more than any other local authority, said yesterday that half its firm road clearing allocation for this year had been spent.

"We had a blizzard back in April, which used up a lot of the money, and with this week's fall of snow we have less than £50,000 to get through the rest of the winter," the council said. "But the county has got to be kept moving. If the snow falls we shall do our best to clear it and sort out how we meet the bill afterwards."

Devon has invested heavily in snow-clearing equipment. After the severe winter of 1978-79 it bought three expensive snow blowers and it also has 168 ploughs and 286 gritters with nearly 900 road miles of gritting equipment. It is switching from other duties if the weather turns bad.

Devon's policy, if snow is forecast, is to carry out a pre-salting of 1,500 miles of key routes. But that costs £10,000 a time, and the council is now looking at ways of doing the job more economically.

One innovation is the use of microelectronics to give an accurate reading of road surface temperatures as an indication of whether pre-salting will be necessary. The council tries to leave salting until the early hours of the morning, instead of the day before, in case conditions improve.

Mr Stuart Mustow, engineer for the West Midlands Metropolitan Council, said yesterday: "We have allocated enough money for a normal winter. Already we have had heavy snow, which is unusual for the time of year."

"But it is a choice between exceeding our cash limit and letting the whole of the West Midlands grind to a halt. I hope you know what the answer will be."

The Association of County Councils said many authorities had contingency funds and if there were exceptional demands on road clearance that was one way they could be met. "But there comes a point when even contingency funds cannot cope and if this happens we would expect the Government to step in and make arrangements for additional financing, as it did after 1979."

Merseyside County Council was criticized by the Automobile Association yesterday for failing to clear roads in Liverpool, causing chaos (the Press Association reports).

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

Scores of accidents and traffic jams were reported by police as snow and black ice took its toll on the 15 main highways into Liverpool, and the AA spoke of the council's "inadequate" gritting operations.

## Science report

## A degree that brought a big change

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heavy snowfall over the South and the Midlands may have served a useful purpose. For it shows the impact that a tiny change in temperature can have on the weather.

The discrepancy between the predicted and actual temperature varied only by between one and two degrees C; but that was sufficient to make the difference between a forecast of rain, sleet and some patches of snow and the thick snow which blanketed so much of Britain.

Although this week's weather is a local phenomenon, it lends emphasis to the warnings of climatologists about what may happen on a global scale as a result of acid rain, which is projected to be a serious problem in the next century, and which could modify the atmosphere.

The main preoccupation of the scientists is with the "greenhouse effect" caused by the discharge of carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of fossil fuels.

The consequence of an accumulation of this gaseous effluent, in altering various areas for growing specific crops and in the



NEWS IN SUMMARY

Toll section for M20 urged by MP

A former Conservative minister yesterday proposed a scheme to complete an unfinished motorway, using private finance. He suggested that a 17-mile section of the M20 from Maidstone to Ashford, Kent, should be completed as an experimental toll road. Our political staff writes.

Mr Keith Speed, MP for Ashford and a former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, said the response of the Department of the Environment and the Treasury to his proposal would be a test of their good faith over promises to build more roads, especially by-passes, in exchange for heavier lorries.

There was a Tory back-bench rebellion on Wednesday over the Government's plans to increase maximum lorry weights.

Mr Speed said in his constituency that the 17-mile break in one of the key routes to Folkestone and Dover was crazy. Statutory procedures had been completed, the unfinished section was of reasonable stage length, it would be heavily used and was ready for construction.

Private finance from Britain and abroad could be found to build the missing link and the tolls would provide a reasonable return. Alternatively, a Government loan could be raised which would be similarly serviced.

£40,493 damages for miner

A miner was awarded £40,493 compensation yesterday for injuries received in an underground accident seven years ago. Damages against the National Coal Board had been agreed at £60,746, but the judge ruled at Stafford High Court that the miner, Mr Richard Shuffelbotham, was one third responsible for the accident.

Mr Shuffelbotham, aged 35, of Whitehall Avenue, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, married with three children, received fractures to his face, jaw, head and skull. He also lost his senses of taste and smell completely after the accident, at Chapterley Whitfield colliery, near Tunstall, Stoke on Trent, in November 1974.

College inquiry head named

Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keeble College, Oxford, is to chair a committee of officials set up by the Government to make recommendations on the development of polytechnics and colleges of higher education.

Mr Ball was a member of the Council of National Academic Awards until last year and chairman of the English studies panel for seven years. His appointment was announced yesterday by Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary for Higher Education, at a London conference organised by the North East London Polytechnic and The Times Higher Education Supplement.

Life of luxury on stolen £60,000

Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday that a company secretary stole more than £60,000 from his firm in Stockport in six months. John Graham Dixon, aged 45, of Poynton, Cheshire, spent the money living a life of luxury, gave a Mini to a school and bought two cars.

Yesterday Dixon, who suffers from angina, was taken ill minutes before being sentenced for theft and false accounting. He had pleaded guilty and was remanded in custody for medical and psychiatric reports.

£3m drugs haul in lorries

When customs officers at Dover broke open a fuel tank on a lorry they found three quarters of a ton of cannabis, the largest drug haul at the port, the jury at Croydon Crown Court was told yesterday.

Jeffrey Litwin, of Mare Street, Hoxney, east London, owner of a number of haulage companies based in east London, was jailed for six years for conspiring to smuggle drugs into Britain. Customs men said a similar load was found in another of his lorries in Vienna. Both lorries had been driven from Pakistan and the combined drugs haul was worth £3m at street resale prices.

Murder charge

Alan Holmes, aged 35, of Willesden Lane, Cricklewood, north-west London, was remanded in custody by Marylebone magistrates yesterday accused of murdering Mr Andrew Ellimore, aged 30, of Notting Hill, west London.

Rector keeps job

The Rev Daniel Hurley, Rector of West Walton, Norfolk, who was convicted of theft in October, is to be allowed by his bishop to keep his job.

Chief constable defends van 'charge' on mob

From John Chartres, Manchester

Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday broke a long silence on operational matters concerning the Moss Side riots last July and defended both the use of vehicles in "van charges" and his "low profile" tactics on the second night of the riots.

Mr Anderton submitted to the police committee, his written comments on the report of the tribunal hearing into the riots which was conducted earlier this year by Mr Benet Hyman, QC. In them he insisted that an advance against a mob made at speed by six police vans moving three abreast was "stringently controlled" and achieved its objective.

The use of police vehicles for charges against rioters has given rise to much national concern and the Hyman report said that the driving of police vehicles into a crowd had given rise to much anxious comment.

The report added that if the use of vehicles in that way was justified it must be strictly controlled to avoid injury, and that on this occasion injury was "happily avoided".

Mr Anderton's statement yesterday said: "The fact that injury was avoided, not only on that occasion but throughout the riot, is a given fact of the following night's disturbances, is indicative of the strict level of control exercised on all these occasions".

Referring to a second incident, on July 1, Mr Anderton said: "The riot was driven into close proximity with the crowd solely to enable officers to effect more arrests; to carry assistance to the point where it was most needed; to limit the time for the rioters to stone and bombard police vehicles; and to reduce the possibility of youths regrouping in other streets."

"Efforts were made to disperse rioters, but these met with little response. The action of police in dispersing rioters was a tactic made inevitable because police officers were under serious threat. In the circumstances no other possible action was feasible and peaceful persuasion had failed."

Mr Anderton also answered accusations made at the Hyman tribunal that police had deliberately "let Moss Side burn". He said that only a normal patrol — of five men — was in the Moss Side area at the beginning of the second evening of disturbances, in direct response to an appeal for "low profile policing" made by community leaders earlier in the day.

The Greater Manchester police committee decided to defer discussion of Mr Anderton's comments until a special meeting which has been called for next Wednesday, to deal with both the Hyman and the Scarman reports.

A report by Mr Peter Quick, the county legal officer, yesterday said that the county will probably have to find £507,877 in settlement of claims for damages during the riots. Fifty-five claims, totalling £55,913, had been settled and £17,500 has been paid in interim settlements.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday he was wholly in favour of the new policing system proposed for Liverpool's Toxteth district. He told officers of the Merseyside Police yesterday that the plans revealed by the Chief Constable, Mr Kenneth Oxford, to have more men on the beat represented a brave new initiative.

Earlier Mr Whitelaw opened the federation's new £80,000 headquarters in Liverpool.



Mr Brian Rix, the former actor, with his wife, Elspeth, yesterday after receiving an honorary Master of Arts degree at Hull University for his work for the mentally handicapped

Officer found guilty of dishonesty

Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Seward was found guilty yesterday at a court martial of participating in dishonest business deals while commanding a top secret signals unit in Cyprus. Seward, aged 42, now stationed at South Tidworth, Hampshire, but formerly commanding officer of the Cyprus-based 9th Signals Regiment, was found guilty of stealing £1,200 (Cyprus) belonging to the Royal Signals Yacht Club after restoring a club vessel with the aid of two men under his command and selling it privately.

He was also found guilty of signing forms authorizing the duty-free purchase of a fidelity system for an officer colleague, and receiving money after improperly hiring out an Army forklift truck to civilian contractors. The court, at Bulford, Wiltshire, acquitted him of allegations that he sent his regimental sergeant-major to England to collect a microwave oven, of improperly authorizing the removal of civilians of a dilapidated Nissen hut from his camp, and of arranging the sale of a duty-free car to a Naafi civilian clerk.

Twelve more charges, of making threatening remarks and dishonesty, relating to his period of command in Cyprus, were read out. The hearing was adjourned until next Monday.

BBC 'stumbled' over the 'Borgias'

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Alasdair Milne, admitting to being exhilarated at being appointed the director-general of the BBC yesterday set out some of his aims when he takes over from Sir Ian Trethowan next August.

He said he was in favour of breakfast television and that a decision on it was likely in the new year. He also said it was up to the BBC to work out ways of easing the burden of the new licence fee for the pensioners.

He was at pains to dispel the impression given by some writers that he is hard to get along with. He had not believed that "the famous volatility of my temper" would be a factor in the BBC governors' minds in appointing him "because it is just not true".

Mr Milne said the BBC was still working out what the new £46 licence fee meant "because some of the plans put to the Government in our original bid for £50 will have to be delayed". The shortfall was £250m over the three-year period the licence was to run.

He said, however, that he was keen to maintain the kind of programme strategy that had been established, with the "very exciting things" that were going to happen over the next few years the BBC would need to be on its toes.

He said BBC television might have "stumbled" over the making of the 10-part series, *The Borgias*. But he added, "we do not stumble often".

Asked about staff morale, Mr Milne said the corporation had been through much financial uncertainty and industrial trouble and staff needed to feel more self-confident. "I hope to be able to help them get that way."

Of the effect of the licence fee on pensioners' budgets, Mr Milne said: "I think we and the Government have a problem over the pensioners, and some resolution over that has to occur. It is up to the BBC to think up ideas and do something about it fairly quickly."

He was also asked about local radio and admitted that he had not been convinced, until he discussed it with colleagues, that it was a fundamental part of the service. "But having been sceptical I have been convinced."

Paying tribute to the man he succeeds, Mr Milne said Sir Ian had delivered the licence fee and the charter, which was a very considerable achievement. "The financial security comes after a period of considerable anxiety", he said.

NO BOXING DAY PRISON VISITS

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department created an outcry yesterday when it confirmed that prisoners are not to be allowed to have their usual family visits on Boxing Day.

The department said restricted travel facilities would make it difficult for many families to get to prison on that day. Visitors on Christmas day are not allowed. But British Rail and London Transport said yesterday there was no difference in travel arrangements this year.

Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "This is a POA conference decision which has been negotiated and introduced by joint agreement."

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Penal Affairs Group, said: "This deplorable decision makes a mockery of the season of good will. Thousands of wives and young children would be prevented from seeing their hands and fathers. The decision was 'disgraceful and inhumane'."

The Prison Department said that as Boxing Day falls on a Saturday, visits will be allowed on the next Monday. But Mr Kilroy-Silk said that instead of restricting visits the department should make them possible.

Telex office protest

By Kenneth Gosling

A protest was sent yesterday to Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, over the decision to close on January 15 the London Telex office, the last public telex office in Britain, after financial losses last year.

It was sent in a joint letter from the Commonwealth Press Union and the Foreign Press Association. British Telecom says it cannot keep the office open at Electra House, where 10 counter staff are employed, because it made losses of £60,000.

The organizations, however, say that represents a serious impediment to the free flow of news. They are also complaining of the withdrawal from January 1983, of the International Telecommunications Union credit card facility in the United Kingdom.

Mr Frank Ware, assistant general manager of United Newspapers and chairman of the CPU's telecommunications committee, said yesterday this would affect not only overseas correspondents but also British correspondents.

The FPA and CPU say that overseas press correspondents were being obstructed by British Telecom in a number of areas. They included an increase of 30 per cent in the Commonwealth press telegram rate and the impending closure of the photo-telegram service.

Watership Down case man cleared

A jury yesterday found Ulf Hirsch not guilty of the manslaughter of his "doll-faced" wife, Jeanette Hirsch, aged 28.

But the jury decided that Hirsch, age 43, had prevented her burial. Her body was found on Watership Down, near Eccleswell, Hampshire, in September, 1975.

Mr Arnold Russell Vick, defending, said at Winchester Crown Court that the verdicts reflected the medical evidence that Hirsch had been responsible for his wife's death in that he must have done something which caused it, but that her death was caused by acute cardiac arrest.

It follows that in those circumstances he panicked. He clearly was not a person trained in resuscitating a person who had collapsed and he panicked and decided to dispose of her body rather than face the possible consequences of an inquiry into what happened.

Hirsch, a German-born company director, of Orion Way, Braintree, Essex, was jailed for 12 months by Mr Justice Webster. Because he has been in custody for eight months since his arrest, the judge said he would be released "almost immediately".

The judge told Hirsch that preventing his wife's burial was a serious offence. But he accepted that Hirsch probably thought wrongly that he was seriously involved in the circumstances of his wife's death.

The body was found half-naked in a lonely spot used by courting couples. It was more than five years before police identified Mrs Hirsch. Her mother, Mrs Gretchen Bartelt, saw a television programme about the mystery in Hamburg and got in touch with British police, as she was concerned about her daughter's disappearance.

Hirsch denied having anything to do with his wife's death or the dumping of her body. He claimed his wife had left him.

Ulf Hirsch set up home with a Dutch woman and the couple have a child. In April a detective called to tell the director of a company of shipping agents that his wife had been identified.

Two pieces of flax, some underwear and a mother's persistence had eventually solved the mystery. Police established that the flax, which had been used to tie a blanket around the half-naked body, was made in Germany, and that the panties she was wearing were sold in that country.

They arranged for an item about the mystery to be shown on a German television programme about unsolved crimes. It was seen at the end of 1975 by Mrs Bartelt. But it was five years before she told Hamburg police that she feared the dead woman could be her daughter.

Fingerprints from the dead woman matched prints found on letters written by her to her mother and detectives went to Hirsch's home to arrest him.

There had been many theories about the woman's identity. It was suggested that she could have been a Spanish spy, killed in a secret operation; another was that she had once worked for John Lennon, the former Beatle.

During the five-year inquiry police had made a death mask and inquiry took them to the United States after suggestions that the woman could have been killed by someone at the Greenham Common air base.

Mrs Bartelt used to call her daughter "Puppe", meaning doll. It was an apt description of the petite woman with tiny ears and nose who met Ulf Hirsch at a Christmas party at her mother's home in Hamburg.

Britannia home

The royal yacht Britannia arrived back in Portsmouth yesterday after a cruise lasting four and a half months which included the royal honeymoon and the Queen's visit to Australia.



Tomorrow they make a special appearance in the Sunday Times.

In tomorrow's Review, Philip Norman looks back on the Rolling Stones' recent tour of the States.

And in true Sunday Times style, he examines the flip side as well. Love them or hate them, you'll be fascinated.

Twenty years ago, there were plenty who felt that what these boys needed most was "a good dose of P.T."

These days, it still comes as a surprise to many to learn that Mick Jagger's pre-tour routine comprises squash, weight-training, seven miles' running every day and three months on the wagon.

At forty or thereabouts, it seems

the old men of rock still have plenty up their sleeves.

Judging by appearances, they could roll into the Nineties with ease. Behind the scenes it may be another story.

Is the moss finally getting a grip? That's something Mick and the lads might prefer we didn't discuss.

But it's the sort of question Sunday Times readers have come to expect us to ask.

We're not about to disappoint them. After all, we've got our image to think of, too.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



## Guerrilla bomb kills leading Khomeini aide

An Iranian spiritual leader and close aide of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary Islamic leader, died yesterday in a bomb attack mounted by 20 guerrillas in Shiraz, southern Iran, according to official sources there.

Ayatollah Abdolhossein Dastgheib, the spiritual leader of Shiraz, and his two bodyguards were killed when their car ran over a bomb in one of the city's main streets, the Revolutionary Guards spokesman in Shiraz told Reuters by telephone.

Ayatollah Dastgheib, aged 68, was on his way to attend Friday mosque prayers which he had been leading since the 1979 revolution.

The guards' spokesman said 20 left-wing guerrillas had exchanged gunfire with security forces in diversionary attacks shortly before the time bomb exploded. Security forces had killed one of the guerrillas and arrested 19.

Tehran radio blamed the radical People's Mujahedin organization, whose members have formed the majority of some 2,000 people executed since June when Islamic fundamentalists launched a crack-down against leftists.

The Mujahedin office in Paris issued a statement soon after the incident, hailing the assassination and describing the dead religious leader "as Khomeini's number one agent in southern Iranian provinces".

It accused the Ayatollah Khomeini of ordering the executions of many of its supporters as well as encouraging violence against government opponents.

A spokesman for Mr. Masoud Rajavi, leader of the Mujahedin, said in London he could neither confirm nor deny the organization's involvement in the killing. However, revolu-

lutionary guards in Shiraz said several of the arrested guerrillas had confessed to being members of the Mujahedin.

Provincial officials declared a day of mourning in Fars province and asked people to attend the funeral of the victims today.

After hearing about the incident, Muslim worshippers who had gathered for the mosque prayers took to the streets, bearing their chests and shouting slogans against the Mujahedin, Shiraz residents said.

Ayatollah Khomeini condemned the killing and blamed "criminal American hands" which he said had deprived religious circles of a "precious personality". Tehran radio said.

President Ali Khamenei and other leading clergy members also denounced the incident. Ayatollah Dastgheib was the most prominent Iranian cleric to be assassinated since Ayatollah Abdollah Madani was killed by a suicide commando while leading Friday prayers in Tabriz on September 11.

Ayatollah Madani was the revolutionary leader's representative in the Avestan province of East Azerbaijan, where local Ayatollah Kazem Shariatmadari is regarded as the chief religious leader.

Ayatollah Shariatmadari is regarded as the Ayatollah Khomeini's main political foe and has been living under house arrest in the holy city of Qom for the past two years.

Until yesterday's killing, the number of assassinations carried out by leftist guerrillas had been falling along with a drop in the number of execu-

## Anger of French farmers erupts

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 11

The anger of French farmers over the amount of Government subsidies to agriculture in 1982 has erupted in demonstrations in different parts of the country.

They consider they have been badly let down by the Socialist Government's decision to grant them only half the total sum they had asked for, and to introduce in aid to agriculture a distinction between small farmers, who need it, and big ones who do not.

Seven people were injured this afternoon in clashes with riot police in Strasbourg, where several thousand farmers converged on the regional prefecture, piled up bales of straw in the vicinity of the building and then set fire to them. They attacked the cordon of police with rotten eggs, and the police retaliated with tear gas before charging the demonstrators.

At Metz, about 1,000 farmers paraded through the streets and bombarded the prefecture with eggs and red paint.

Mme Edith Cresson, the Minister of Agriculture, on an official visit to western France, was held up for half an hour by angry farmers near Parthenay. She tried to explain the Government's decision, and insisted on her determination to "defend agriculture".

In the Correz, at Tulle, 200 farmers occupied the drawing room of the prefecture and blocked it with tractors in the village north of Paris, all the main roads and accesses to the motorway were blocked with tractors. The farmers handed out leaflets to motorists which said: "We have no choice. What would you say if your wages had been falling for eight years?"

The subsidies to agriculture, announced by the Government on Tuesday, amount to 5,500 francs (about £800) but Mr Francois Guillaume, the chairman of the once all-powerful FNSEA, the national farmers' union, had demanded more than 9,000 francs and half of the subsidies are to be paid by the Credit Agricole, the farmers' cooperative bank. M. Guillaume insists this amounts to making them give out with one hand what they receive with another.

But the Socialists no longer regard the FNSEA as the privileged negotiating partners of the Government, as was the case under its conservative predecessor, and seems to be trying out a policy of divide and rule. But the result has been to unite all the farmers' organizations against the Government's policy.

Britain's farmers have demanded immediate EEC action to block the proposed aid programme by the French Government.

Sir Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union, said he was extremely disturbed by the French move. Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, has asked for a full report on the aid package.

Mr Walker is expected to raise the subject with Mme Cresson and EEC farm ministers meet in Brussels next week.

The French Government already faces action before the European Court for a similar aid package announced last year. The EEC Commission ruled that much of the aid was illegal and distorted the free trade rules of the Treaty of Rome.



All smiles: The two German leaders at Schönefeld airport.

## Strain beneath the smiles at German leaders' talks

From Patricia Clough, Biesenthal am Bogensee, Dec 11

In the depths of a snow-covered Brandenburg forest, populated only by deer, beavers and fur-bearing security men, Herr Helmut Schmidt and Herr Erich Honecker tonight settled down to the first summit between East and West German leaders in 11 years.

With a clink of glasses, jovial words, but a hint of underlying strain, Herr Honecker welcomed the West German Chancellor to the Hubertusstock, a wooden chalet-style hunting lodge near the half-frozen Lake Werbellin north of Berlin, where he will be a guest for three days.

The meeting, only three weeks after President Brezhnev gave it his blessing, is being treated by East Germany as a major state event.

As the two leaders started their talks, Herr Wolfgang Meyer, the East German spokesman, said that his country attributed "great political significance to the meeting. The world, he added, expected it to be an important contribution to the East-West dialogue, peace, and détente."

East German television took the step—unprecedented for a western visit—of transmitting live Herr Schmidt's arrival at East Berlin's bleak Schönefeld airport, and again at the Hubertusstock, some 35 miles to the north of the city. Millions of viewers saw what

Herr Honecker and other East German leaders now like to hum.

But the impression that the joviality was slightly forced, mounted as the official party assembled below the antlers and hunting trophies of the Hubertusstock.

By the time they sat down on a green sofa for the last photographs, they were both looking serious and slightly awkward, as if they were not quite sure what to say, and Herr Schmidt resorted to a comforting pinch of snuff.

But the two leaders have no particular reason at present for backslapping. The summit is simply another start to East-West German relations, after a period of setbacks.

The summit itself had to be put off twice because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and later because of the situation in Poland. Both will be anxious to discuss East-West relations and arms control, but are waiting for each other to do about it.

The meeting is unlikely to produce any important agreements or spectacular steps forward in improving their often difficult relations. But for Herr Schmidt—and probably also for Herr Honecker—the most important thing about the occasion is that it is happening.

Leading article, page 7

## Ian Smith not worried after arrest of MP

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Dec 11

The Zimbabwe Government today confirmed that as MP of the white Republican Front opposition party was detained yesterday, and was being held under emergency powers for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the Government.

A statement from the Prime Minister's office said that investigations were being conducted into allegations that the MP, Mr Wally Smitford, and others had been conspiring "with other political elements". It is expected that court proceedings will soon be instituted, the statement went on.

The statement contained no reference to another white MP of the Republican Front, Mr Denis Walker, who was also sought when police detained Mr Smitford in Bulawayo yesterday. It appears that Mr Walker, with or without advice, was warning of the police swoop, left Zimbabwe for South Africa two days earlier.

Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister and leader of the RF, said tonight: "It seems most unlikely that Smitford had been up to anything of this sort, but he had to have got no complaints. I am checking into things. Asked if he feared for his own liberty he said: 'My conscience is clear. No, I am not worried.'

But there have been enough innuendoes and it is time for facts."

The "other political elements" referred to in the official statements are almost certainly members of the Patriotic Front party which is the ruling Zanu(PF) party's coalition partner in name only, and is still seen in some white circles as a possible partner in a parliamentary alliance against Zanu(PF).

□ The British High Commission in Salisbury has made representations to the Zimbabwe Government over the assault yesterday on a British tourist couple by members of the Army. The couple, and another pair on holiday in Zimbabwe, were surrounded and beaten by soldiers while motorway in the eastern border area.

Mr Robert Hodgkiss, aged 30, and his wife Laurie, and Mr Simon Ackroyd, also a British tourist, all received hospital treatment for head injuries following their hour-long ordeal.

The group had motored into the area where Zimbabwe's Fifth Brigade is being trained by North Korean military instructors, on a road which bore no warning that it was restricted.

## Violence threatens Beirut

From Robert Fick, Beirut, Dec 11

Syrian troops drove into the centre of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli this afternoon after a second day of street battles and sniping that followed the discovery of five more bodies yesterday.

A bomb explosion in the city yesterday killed 15 people, and 11 members of one family were massacred at their village home 16 miles away. This morning's victims, apparently all Palestinians, were found machine-gunned to death beside the coastal highway not far from the Syrian border.

Tripoli's revenge killings have long been a part of Lebanon's recent grisly history but the violence in the north now threatens to spill over into the capital.

No reason was given for the latest murders but it seems that the family, the Zeidans, had relatives who were members of the Christian Phalange party which had been accused by villagers in the north of Lebanon of delaying an ambulance that carried the body of a murdered leftist lawyer through east Beirut.

□ New York: The General Assembly of the United Nations today decided to convene an international conference on the question of Palestine not later than 1984. The resolution, adopted by 122 votes to 4 (Canada, Israel, Norway and the United States) with 20 abstentions, was one of six approved by the Assembly dealing with various aspects of the Palestine problem.

Israel and the United States voted against all the drafts, which were endorsed by overwhelming majorities. Preparations for the proposed conference, including recommendations concerning the size and provisional agenda, are to be made by the United Nations Palestine Rights Committee. Reuter.



A DELICATE MISSION

Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova will take office on January 27 as the first civilian President of Honduras for ten years. He was elected on November 29. A country doctor, he is expected to follow conservative, pro-American policies. He will have to be careful not to upset the armed forces, who will retain considerable influ-

ence over his administration. He will need an increase in American aid to deal with the economic difficulties facing Honduras, the poorest country in Central America. He will also have to handle the political complications caused by the turbulence in neighbouring Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

## Preserved meat linked to cancer

Washington, Dec 11.—The meat preservatives, nitrates and nitrites, may indirectly cause cancer and should be used less, a United States Government report said today.

The two preservatives are used in many meats to combat bacterial poisoning, and their safety has been the subject of years of controversy.

A committee of the National Academy of Sciences reported after a year-long study that the two compounds, while not directly causing cancer in test animals, could nevertheless be converted into cancer-causing substances in food and in the body.

It recommended that nitrite be used only "to the extent that protection against botulism is not compromised". Nitrate should be eliminated from meat because it had no proven preservative effect, but it could still be necessary in sausages.

The committee said evidence of the two compounds' potential to lead to cancer in people was still largely circumstantial, and the American Meat Institute, which represents meat packers and processors, said the report was reassuring.—Reuter.

□ Nitrate and nitrite are widely used as meat preservatives in Britain. Mr John Lock, director of the Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association, said none of the many reports on the possible harm they could cause was in any way conclusive.

## 'Sakharov' victory over Kremlin in visa case

Moscow, Dec 11.—Western diplomats here say Dr Andrei Sakharov, who won for a young relative the right to emigrate, appeared to have scored a victory over the Soviet authorities. The exiled physicist and his wife went on hunger strike for 17 days.

Officials reversed an earlier refusal and told Miss Liza Alexeyeva, aged 26, that she would get travel papers on Monday allowing her to join Mr. Alexei Semenyonov, whom she married by proxy, in the Soviet Union. Mr Semenyonov is the son of Dr Sakharov's wife, Yelena by a previous marriage.

Diplomats in Moscow were surprised that the Kremlin had bowed to pressure from a dissident leader, which it has always refused to do in the past.

Sakharov has effectively won a greater victory from his place of exile than ever he achieved in 12 years of campaigning for human rights in Moscow, one said.

Dr Sakharov told Miss Alexeyeva in a telegram that he and his wife were well and "happy, beyond words" with the decision to let her leave.

The Sakharovs went on hunger strike in the town of Nizhny Novgorod. Dr Sakharov is exiled for his dissident activities. Miss Alexeyeva said she planned to go there tomorrow to see them. She said she received a coded telegram from Dr Sakharov today confirming a KGB statement that their fast ended on December 8.

Yesterday, she said she did not know whether the statement was true. But the latest message from the 60-year-old

Nobel Prize winner said: "On the evening of the eighth we stopped drinking Borzhomi. We are waiting for you."

Borzhomi is the name of a mineral water which is all the Sakharovs took during their fast. Miss Alexeyeva said the message was a pre-arranged code to signal the end of the hunger strike.

It was also reported from Moscow today that Soviet police had arrested a writer, Mr. Yevgeny Kozlovsky, and charged him with anti-Soviet propaganda, according to literary sources.

Mr Kozlovsky, aged 35, whose works have been published in France, was arrested on December 7 and taken to Moscow's Lefortovo prison, the sources said.

Soviet police also searched his flat and took manuscripts, books, letters and other written material, they said.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in a labour camp followed by a period of internal exile.

A statement passed to Western journalists by an official literary circles described Mr Kozlovsky's arrest as the first example since the mid-1960s of "crude judicial repression of a writer whose activity was none other than literary."

Mr Kozlovsky, who is also a theatre director, was one of seven writers who applied unsuccessfully more than 8 years ago for official permission to set up an independent literary workshop. Reuter.

## Solidarity urges test of support by referendum

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 11

Leaders of Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union, called today for a national referendum to determine whether Poles supported the union or the Communist Party in a series of disputes.

Members of Solidarity's National Commission meeting in Gdansk, demanded the referendum during a debate on how the union should respond to mounting pressure from the authorities.

Delegates also stated that Solidarity, not the communists, had the backing of the people and told the ruling party that it must agree to genuine power-sharing if Poland is to overcome its economic, social and political crisis.

Mr Lech Walesa, the union's leader, said that he had now favoured more forceful measures, saying his former gradual approach had led nowhere and he now agreed with radicals who had called for swift change.

The delegates reaffirmed that the union would call a general strike if the Government tried to pass an emergency powers law that would strip Solidarity of its legal status.

The Government is watching the two-day conference with particular concern. The Communist Party leadership believes that the future of its power share arrangement, the Front of National Understanding, depends on the result or at least the tone of the conference.

The opening speeches made by delegates and leaders reassured the Government. The first point to emerge was that there would be no going back on the declaration made by the Solidarity leadership after last week's conference in Radom.

Apart from a threat of general strike, this called for increased access to the media, free local council elections and the implementation of radical economic reforms.

The Government claims, partly on the strength of a secret tape recording of the meeting, to have discovered a general wish within the union leadership to destroy the talks between Solidarity and the Government. Solidarity denies this.

The second theme of the speeches was abhorrence of the Government's proposed Emergency Powers Bill. Apart from banning strikes this would allow some radical cases to be transferred from civil to military jurisdiction.

But to a large degree Solidarity's threat of a general strike should this Bill be passed is little more than rhetoric. The Sejm (parliament) is unlikely to pass the Bill. Even if it were passed it would put the Government in an impossible situation as a total ban on strikes is almost unenforceable in present-day Poland.

□ Moscow has sharpened its attacks on Solidarity, and accused it of threatening the existence of the Warsaw Government (Reuter's text).

An open attack has been launched on the electoral system existing in the country. Tass said in a commentary published in Russian newspapers: "Threats were being made that the Sejm did not immediately 'take decisions' on Solidarity, the union would call 'pre-term' elections and form a 'Parliament promoting the policy being pursued by Solidarity's leaders."

Circulars are being issued with recommendations to cross out in the ballots representatives of the Polish United Workers' Party (the official title of the Communist Party), the report said.

The commentary claimed that Solidarity was responsible for "slogans called out to do away with Communism."

In an apparent switch of tactics, Tass turned on the Roman Catholic church in Poland. "Clerical circles and organisations have become perceptibly more active. Far more serious aims at discrediting the Government's activities to defend socialism are being read in cathedrals," it said.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### US blunt about EEC 'dumping'

Talks aimed at reducing friction over what the United States sees as EEC dumping of goods in American markets began inauspiciously in Brussels yesterday, with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, making clear that economic considerations would increasingly dominate Atlantic relations.

Mr Haig hoped for "an elegant dialogue which avoids above all confrontation", but there were few signs that yesterday's discussions—the first at such a level between the EEC and United States—had been elegant.

On agriculture, American representatives were blunt in opposing some EEC trading practices. With air traffic halted by snow, the discussions on steel took place in a London airport lounge.

### Court will hear anti-tax appeal

Copenhagen.—The Danish Supreme Court is to hear an appeal from Mr Mogens Glistrup, the politician and Freedom Party leader.

Mr Glistrup sought leave to appeal last month after the High Court had sentenced him to four years' jail as well as imposing penalties totalling £700,000 in costs, back taxes and fines for gross tax fraud. It also debarred him for life from his legal practice.

The Supreme Court hearing is likely to be protracted, with the final verdict coming a year from now. The Glistrup case, after seven years in various courts, is the longest-running cause célèbre in Danish legal history.

### Christmas plea on Gibraltar

Madrid.—The temporary opening of the Spanish frontier with Gibraltar as a goodwill gesture for Christmas has been proposed by Spanish Socialist Richard Wigg writes.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, however, that it was "highly unlikely" the Government would agree.

The Socialists said "purely humanitarian" reasons would justify the temporary opening to permit family reunions at Christmas, impossible since the Franco regime abruptly closed the frontier in 1959.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that technically it would be possible to permit people to cross the border but that vehicular traffic would present difficulties. "When the frontier gates open I think it will be for good," he added.

### Carrington backs Canada Bill

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has indicated the Government's view that the Canada Bill, soon to be introduced in the Commons to patriate the Canadian constitution, should be passed without amendment.

This view is already being challenged by a group of MPs who support objections by Quebec and Canadian Indians.

In a White Paper, Lord Carrington says that agreement by nine out of ten provinces appeared to satisfy the vital role of the fundamental role of Westminster. It is to decide whether the Canadian request conveyed the clearly expressed wishes of Canada as a whole.

### Bokassa citizenship claim rejected

Paris.—A French Court has rejected a claim to French citizenship by former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Empire.

Mr Bokassa, who was overthrown in a coup in September, 1979, now lives on the Ivory Coast. His lawyers contended that he neither lost nor renounced the French citizenship he held while his country was a French colony.

## Gaddafi eccentricity obscures Libya's economic advance

Colonel Gaddafi's eccentric foreign adventures have resulted in the latest charge and counter-charge between the United States and Libya and have helped to create for him the worst possible public image abroad, largely obscure Libya's enormous economic advance since he came to power in the 1969 coup.

Although due almost entirely to the discovery of oil in 1961 and the oil price leaps of the 1970s, rather than to any political theory, the rise in the average standard of living has been impressive by any standards.

Free schools and university education at home or abroad, care of the old, and free comprehensive medical services for all are some of the more obvious benefits in a country that was among the world's poorest in 1951. The housing programme, with promises of a home and a car for every family, has been the biggest achievement, not only in Tripoli and Benghazi but also in outlying areas. Shanty towns are expected to disappear entirely by 1985.

As in the oil-rich states of the Gulf, industrial development has been pushed ahead to form an economic base for the day the oil runs out. But large factories are turning out expensive goods that bear little relationship to market needs or prices. Economic emphasis, however, is given to agriculture.

The fertile coastal strip, originally farmed by Italians before independence, is still being developed by foreign agencies, but massive farm projects requiring costly irrigation have sprung up far to the south, and combine harvesters are working 1,000 miles into the Western Desert, producing grain at five to six times the world price. The prospect of transforming Libya into an industrial power with self-sufficiency in food is remote.

In recent months cash flow has faltered, as the oil glut forced prices down and cuts in production. At the end of June output was still running at the target rate of 1.6 million barrels a day, but then dropped to less than half that, although recent reports claim that it is moving back to 900,000 bbl. There have been delays in payment for imports and some review of spending is going on, but no clear picture of the financial squeeze is yet emerging.

The decision announced last month by Exxon, the world's biggest oil company, to cease operations in Libya on economic grounds and speculation that Mobil is demanding a better deal have been political rather than economic setbacks. Many of the smaller oil com-

panies depend on Libyan production.

The gap between rich and poor has been greatly narrowed in the last decade, and Colonel Gaddafi owes much of his support to the broad mass of people at the base of the social pyramid. Few of them can be expected to understand his astonishingly sweeping credo, *The Green Book*, in which he displays fanatical conviction.

Major markets for Libyan crude oil, natural gas, liquids, and refinery feedstocks, 1981 in thousand metric tonnes.

	Total	Imports	Exports
Italy	44,410	1,871	6,535
West Germany	41,985	1,787	6,535
Greece	3,413	1,787	6,535
France	43,196	1,787	6,535
Turkey	5,423	1,787	6,535
Japan	102,517	1,787	6,535
U.S.	4,000	1,787	6,535
Netherlands	23,070	1,787	6,535
Canada	13,430	1,787	6,535
Switzerland	1,759	1,787	6,535
U.K.	23,722	1,787	6,535
Sweden	1,728	1,787	6,535
U.S.S.R.	1,728	1,787	6,535

Source: International Energy Agency, Paris.

His idiosyncratic brand of Islamic socialism, replacing conventional forms of government by "people's committees," has been in operation for about 12 years and has resulted, particularly in the early stages, in incompetence, disorganization and massive wastage. Everyone

from street cleaners to inexperienced students wants to exercise his democratic right to join in the administration of everything, from local to national and even international level.

People's committees are nevertheless advised by revolutionary committees, which act like central banks and are guardians of ideological purity and represent a powerful extension of the security system. In theory decisions travel from the bottom of the system to the top, but in practice pressure from the top ensures that there is a kind of siphoning effect through the revolutionary committees, who take their instructions from Colonel Gaddafi.

Since 1979, when he and his four leading comrades withdrew from formal politics, the Leader of the Revolution (as he is now commonly called), has adopted a purely supervisory role. In practice these five wield supreme power since they control all the armed police and intelligence services, leaving the other organs of government answerable in theory to the people.

Opposition, much of it organized abroad, is scattered among the remains of the middle classes—who were forced to give up their state salaries but about £430 a head of their earnings last year—

Muslim extremists, liberals and various discontented army officers, students, and intellectuals. The cost of the Chad war in financial and human terms, military service and the suppression of traditional entrepreneurial activities are further causes of discontent.

The fact remains that all attempts to unseat Colonel Gaddafi have failed and his personal security, under the guidance of Cubans and East Europeans, is better than ever. His manipulation of religion for political ends, which enrages Saudi Arabian parties, does not appear to run the risk of a serious fundamentalist backlash, since Libyan ulama are politically impotent.

Admirable coups have all emerged from the Army, and so regional commanders with mild power like provincial governors, are now moved around as much as possible to nip in the bud any potential plotting.

Even if Colonel Gaddafi were assassinated, he would probably be replaced by another soldier, the most likely being the retired right-hand man, Staff Major Abdou Salem Jalloud. But since Libya is a bizarre blend of left and right elements, one even informed observers in Tripoli are prepared to agree on the direction of any post-Gaddafi regime.



## Viola replaced in Argentina by junta rivals

From Patrick Knight, Buenos Aires, Dec 11

General Roberto Viola, the president of Argentina, who suffered a heart attack four weeks ago, has been removed from his post by General Leopoldo Galtieri, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and a leading member of the ruling junta, who has assumed the presidency himself.

The decision follows a week of intense negotiations between the two men who failed to reach an amicable solution as General Viola refused to resign.

General Viola, whose heart condition is not so severe as to impede him from continuing as president, was eventually outmanoeuvred. General Galtieri was recently joined in the junta by Admiral Jorge Anaya, the naval commander, sympathetic to him; and in recent end-of-year promotions, he has been able to give loyal officers key posts so that all his flanks were covered. One of the most notable of these is General Cristino Nicolides, a hard-liner whom he appointed to the command of the Second Army in Buenos Aires.

For the time being at least, General Galtieri will not cease to be an active officer, and will combine the two positions of President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, which should give him a strength and freedom to act that General Viola conspicuously lacked during his eight months of office.

General Viola's position was also weakened by the economic crisis which has brought the exchange value of the peso to a fifth of its rate when he assumed power in March, and caused unemployment to grow, and living standards to be cut, although he had justifiably claimed that this was not his fault.

General Galtieri has the reputation of being a hard-liner, and earlier in the year

stated that ballot boxes were safely under lock and key, and would remain so.

He is also considered rather hot-headed and unpredictable. Early in General Viola's presidency, after the arrest of two Argentine officers accused of spying in Chile, he took the decision to close the frontier without consulting other junta members or the President, and raised tensions between the two countries, which was already high because of the Beagle dispute.

During General Viola's illness, when General Horacio Londo, the Interior Minister exercised the role of president, General Galtieri was apparently behind the arrest and interrogation of several Communist Party leaders.

The party, which was hostile to the previous government of Senora Isabel Peron, supported the military takeover of 1976, and has not been bothered much recently.

But General Galtieri, who has also said that he would be willing to consider sending troops to El Salvador, a policy more extreme than that of the present Government, seems to want to demonstrate that he means to be tough.

It is not certain whether the poor light in which the military are now seen, particularly because of its failure to get the economy in order, will prevent General Galtieri from acting as he might wish.

Most feel that despite the extra freedom he has now obtained, he will be forced to take Argentina further along the path towards a return to civilian rule, whether he likes it or not, and that ironically, being far more obviously a tough man than his predecessor, he might be able to achieve more than he did if he is convinced there is no option.



Dip in the Rhine for Gusi, a hippopotamus from the Fischer circus who slipped attendants giving her a bath near Koblenz and went instead for a mile-long swim against the freezing, strong current. A helicopter buzzed her back to the river bank.

## Nixon 'felt blacks to be inferior'

Washington, Dec 11

Former President Richard Nixon is accused in a new book of believing blacks are genetically inferior to whites, according to a report published in the Washington Post today.

Mr John Ehrlichman, a former presidential aide, is reported to say in the book that Mr Nixon thought that programmes such as open housing and busing simply would never do any good.

"Twice in explaining all this to me Nixon said he believed America's blacks could only marginally benefit from federal programmes because blacks were genetically inferior to whites", Mr Ehrlichman wrote.

"Blacks could never achieve parity — in intelligence, economic success or social qualities".

Excerpts from galley proofs of the book obtained by the Post were published yesterday alleging that Chief Justice Warren Burger, discussed cases before the court with Mr Nixon, Mr Ehrlichman and Mr John Mitchell, the Attorney General.

Simon and Schuster, the publishers, said that the account reflected the chapter on Chief Justice Burger accurately but was unavailable for comment on the authenticity of the Post's report today. — Reuters.

## Nato pledges support for Third World

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 11

The Atlantic Alliance is in a substantially better posture now than it was a year ago, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said at the end of the Nato Foreign Ministers' meeting here today.

He brushed aside the problems inside Nato over the attitude of the Greek Government and spoke of a future in which Spain would assume an important role in the defence of the West.

Mr Haig's stocktaking of the world situation formed the centrepiece of the meeting and the final communiqué echoed the American view of world affairs.

There was recognition of the European political debate about the role of nuclear weapons. But the statement reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to maintain a nuclear capability.

The statement said "unilateral nuclear disarmament would give the Soviet Union, which could not be relied upon to follow suit, an overwhelming military advantage".

The Soviet refusal to withdraw from Afghanistan was described as "a menace to the stability of the region, which endangers international peace and security and seriously impedes improvements in East-West relations".

## Badinage too at arms talks

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 11

Describing the first stages of the American-Soviet negotiations here on intermediate-range nuclear weapons as very encouraging, Dr Eugene Rostow, Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, today said the two sides "are settling down with the minimum of procedural difficulty to the substance of the problem."

"The atmosphere is good and brisk, there's business as well as serious talk," he did not wish to create false hopes, for the sides were far apart and there were no surprise changes in attitude, but they were working seriously.

The negotiations had to be seen in conjunction with the talks on strategic intercontinental weapons due to begin in March, Mr Rostow said in an address at the American International Club.

"The reason for that is very simple and very fundamental. It is there's no such thing really as an intermediate-range nuclear missile, i.e., a missile whose range is up to 1,500 km. The long-range missiles can also be aimed at targets within Europe, within Japan, within the Middle East."

But the communiqué draws comfort from the progress in the theatre nuclear disarmament talks, which opened in Geneva nine days ago, and the prospect of a start early next year on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Sart).

There is firm support for continuing to demand negotiations on disarmament while continuing to plan an allied nuclear build-up.

## CARIBBEAN SUSPICION Anti-Cuban crusade may backfire on US

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, Dec 11

If Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, calculated that a tough anti-communist speech in the Caribbean would help to rally nervous and poverty-stricken islands behind Washington's attempts to isolate Cuba, he must have been disappointed at the result.

Our renewed warnings about Cuban interference in the region and Nicaraguan militarisation, delivered to the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States in the St Lucia capital, Castries, last week, have so far produced more weary smiles than thunderous rounds of applause.

Washington's anti-Cuba campaign scored its biggest Caribbean success to date when Jamaica's new Conservative government broke off relations with Havana at the end of October, a move widely interpreted as the big result of American pressure.

Since then, there has been a storm of publicity about a new Caribbean Basin initiative which is now in the final stages of consideration in Washington, the latest United States programme for regional aid.

It is already bogged down by differences of opinion with the other main sponsors — Canada, Mexico and Venezuela — and with Caribbean recipients, who object to its strong preference for private sector investment over the public sector transfers which they see as the more urgent development priority.

Suspicion is now growing that the political strings dangling from it are designed to secure American strategic interests rather than solutions to the Caribbean's urgent economic problems.

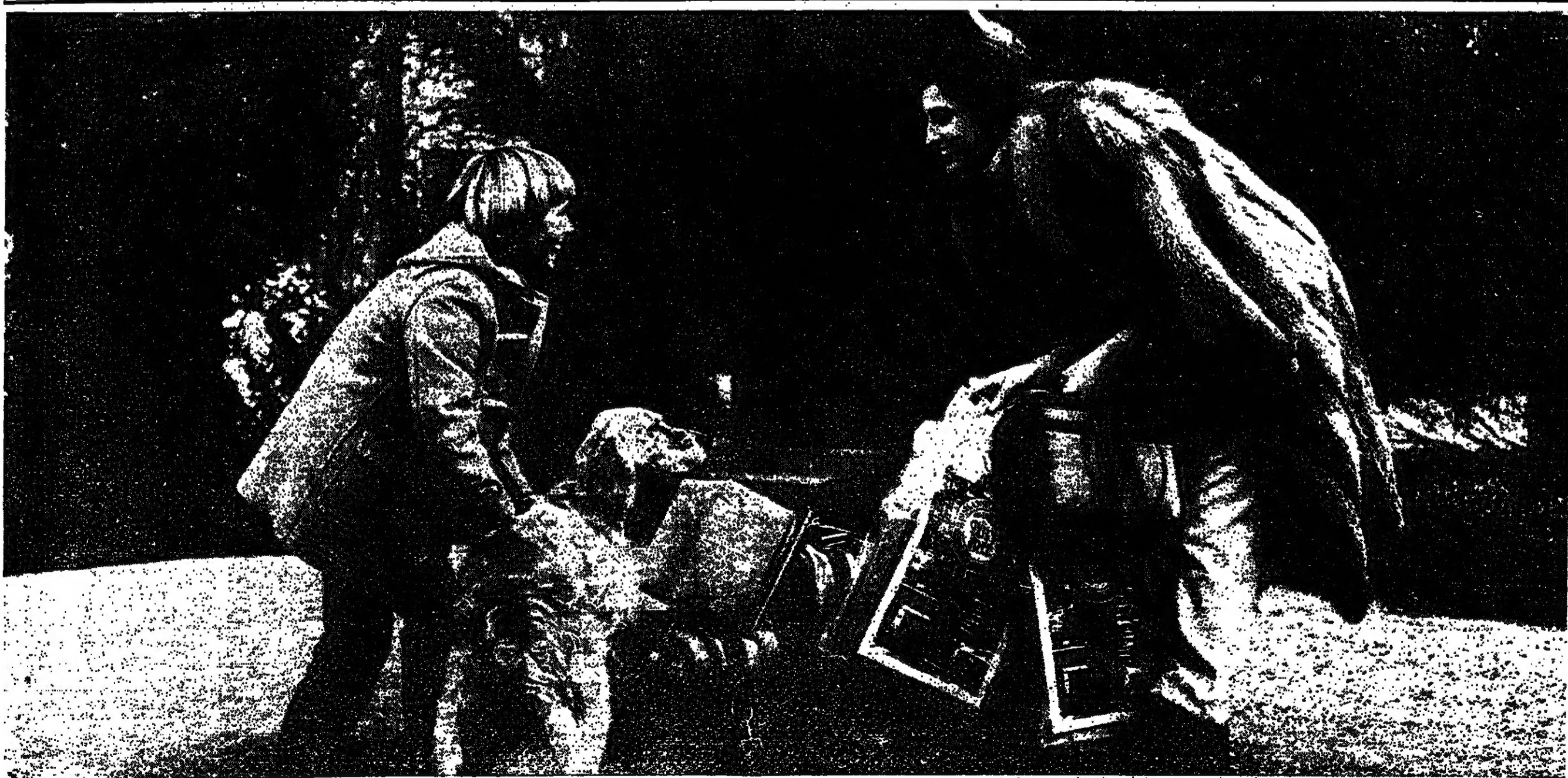
This accounts for the chilly response to Mr Haig. Dr Basil Luce, the new Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister who until last month headed the international relations institute of the University of the West Indies, spoke sharply at the OAS assembly about the way the superpowers "see the Caribbean help. The problem is economic and cannot be solved by geopolitical terms and import their tensions into it".

One Caribbean official at the assembly asks sharply: "What do we have to do, elect a Manley or a Fidel Castro and then throw him out in order to get help?"

The odd thing is that Mr Haig is already preaching to the converted. Except for revolutionary Grenada, where Cuban influence is strong, there is little enthusiasm in the region for Cuba.

But the Commonwealth Caribbean states are nevertheless very sensitive to ideological interference and encroachments on sovereignty. When the United States tried to sabotage Grenada's attempts to raise EEC funds for its new international airport this year, it won little support in the region in spite of widespread distaste for the Grenadian revolution.

The message that the Caribbean is trying to get across to Mr Haig is simple: Ideology is not the problem. The region is not interested in pressuring Cuba, certainly not as the price for American help. The problem is economic and cannot be solved by geopolitical terms and import their tensions into it".



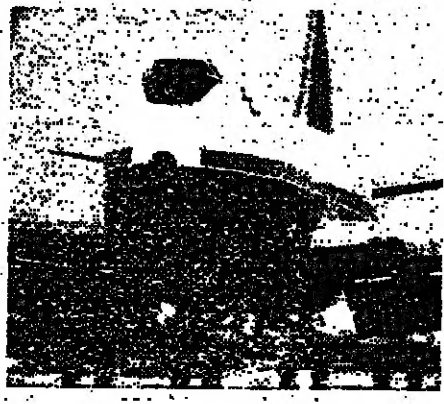
## What makes an airline human

With Pakistan International Airlines, it's just like coming home.

All great airlines are similar in many ways. The need for a high degree of professionalism, advanced technology, efficiency and reliability are common to all. Few airlines achieve the truly highest standards because the one factor, above all others, which makes this possible is intangible. Ambiance.

All kinds of everything.

Pakistan International Airlines is one such airline... It's just like coming home. When next you fly to America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa or Asia, fly Pakistan International Airlines.



PIA Great people to fly with



## Chapman-Pincher reopens the MI5 mole controversy

## Hollis: how the Prime Minister was misled

In March this year the Prime Minister confirmed in Parliament that Sir Roger Hollis, the former Director-General of MI5, had been deeply suspected of being a Russian spy but had been cleared by a court of law. The Prime Minister's statement was at variance with the evidence of those who had investigated him over seven years that I have spent the intervening eight months trying to discover who had been misled. Was it myself through the evidence against Hollis which I disclosed in my book, *The Trade is Treachery*? Or was it Mrs Thatcher through the statement prepared for her (by Cabinet office and Home Office officials) in direct response to my book? I am now in no doubt that it was the Prime Minister who was misled.

The first alleged clearance resulted from an internal inquiry by MI5 (the Security Service) with assistance from current and past officials of MI6 (the Secret Intelligence Service). MI5 chiefs led by Sir Martin Furnival Jones, a solicitor, decided to close the case against Hollis with a judgment that, though his innocence could not be proved, there was no evidence which could have incriminated him in a British court of law. Why, therefore, was he judged to be cleared of suspicion?

This secret decision, which was not promulgated to those investigating officers who had produced the evidence, was taken in 1972. Yet I have now established that in May 1974 an official warning that Hollis might have been a Soviet agent for the whole of his 27 years in MI5 was given to security chiefs of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand so that they could take remedial action, even at that late stage,

against any damage which he might have inflicted on them. It was considered necessary because Hollis had been deeply involved in setting up counter-espionage organisations in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and he had close links with the CIA and FBI. No Whitehall official or politician was told about this warning but the Solicitor General of Canada, Mr Robert Kaplan, has recently confirmed that Canadian security received it "in the mid-1970s" and took what remedial action it could, an admission which has embarrassed Whitehall.

A few weeks after the warning Mr Stephen de Mowbray, one of the officers involved in the Hollis inquiries, was so incensed with what had occurred inside MI5 that he went to see the Prime Minister, then Harold Wilson. Instead he saw the Cabinet Secretary, Sir John Hunt (now Lord Hunt of Tanworth), who was so impressed by his allegations that he recommended a further inquiry by Lord Trend, his predecessor.

Lord Trend did no more than review the previous internal inquiry, interviewing witnesses and examining old files. People who have read his secret report confirm that no effort was made to secure any new evidence, though I believe that a crucial new information might be available if the Government wished to obtain it. Lord Trend consulted former MI5 and MI6 chiefs who had been party to the original "clearance" and was impressed by their view that if Hollis had been a spy for so long there would have been clinching evidence from a defector or some other source.

In fact one reliable defector, Igor Gouzenko, had reported in 1945 that Soviet

military intelligence had a spy inside MI5 in England for whom Hollis is a near perfect fit. A would-be defector called Volkov had also told of a spy in what now seems to have been MI5 though his information was at first interpreted as applying to Philby, who was in MI6.

Mrs Thatcher's statement, which revealed that Lord Trend had agreed with the original clearance, has been analysed by some of the former investigating officers. They have found at least six areas where it is grossly at variance with the facts as they knew them. The statement was worded to give the impression that all the events described in my book were very old when in fact Hollis was not interrogated until 1970 and was still being investigated in 1975, two years after his death.

It indicated that the inquiries leading to the suspicion of Hollis arose from routine investigations after the defection of Burgess and Maclean in 1951. In fact they were undertaken because so many MI5 operations in the 1950s and 1960s went so seriously wrong that they could be explained only if there was a high-level spy still in the organisation.

The statement compounded this misleading suggestion by saying that the case against Hollis was based on "certain leads that suggested, but did not prove, that there had been a Russian Intelligence service agent at relatively senior level in British counter-intelligence in the last years of the war (my italics)".

This innuendo that the spy was pointing to Hollis dated from 1945 and before is so opposed to the evidence that I wrote to Lord Trend. I knew that he had examined leads which had arisen in the 1960s and his reply indicates



Sir Roger Hollis: new evidence if the Government had wanted it

that he is not prepared to be associated with the restriction of them to "the last years of the war".

Mrs Thatcher also told Parliament that "each of the leads pointing to Hollis could also be taken as pointing to Philby or Blunt". Blunt left MI5 in 1951. So this was clearly an attempt by the officials who prepared the speech to lumber Blunt and Philby with penetrations achieved by the KGB long after they had ceased to have access to secret information.

The MI5 investigators and others associated with the Hollis inquiries have no hesitation in calling this part of the statement a fabrication. Philby and Blunt were always agents of the KGB while the evidence indicates that the suspected spy in MI5 was working for the GRU - Soviet military intelligence, which operates independently.

The Prime Minister's statement said the MI5 clearance was challenged by "a very few of those concerned". While few may have chal-

lenged it, many disagreed with it. The so-called Fluency Committee, which made the original investigations and concluded that Hollis was the prime suspect consisted of seven experienced officers. This was replaced by a permanent section, set up to investigate possible penetrations of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the radio-intercept agency, and involving about a dozen officers who had not served on the Fluency Committee. Independently they recommended that Hollis should be interrogated in the belief that he might break down and confess.

This interrogation was carried out by Mr John Day of Section K7 under the tightest security because there were high-level fears that a leak to the Russians might result in Hollis's defection, with appalling international consequences. Day was so unimpressed by Hollis's defence of his innocence that he is far from certain that proof that Hollis was a spy might still emerge.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

## Let's give blacks a head start

Ronald Dworkin argues the pros and cons following the Commons debate on the Scarman Report

Lord Scarman recommends that "ethnic minorities" should "enjoy for a time a positive discrimination in their favour". This means, presumably, that government should take race into account in deciding where to locate or focus inner-city rehabilitation schemes, for example, so that areas with a high concentration of ethnic-minority citizens would have top priority. In the United States positive discrimination has meant something even more controversial: that individual blacks and members of other minorities (as well as women) should have some special advantage in competing for jobs or places in college or university.

British politicians and leader-writers were quick to reject the suggestion that the "dual" form of positive discrimination, and to point out that it would require amending the Race Relations Act, which forbids private employers to discriminate on the basis of race. Lord Scarman has now said, at a news conference, that he did not mean to endorse quotas or other "disquieting features" and the Home Secretary has suggested that Scarman meant by "positive discrimination" no discrimination at all, but only that the "special needs" of ethnic minorities, like the special needs of everyone else, demand special measures. These did not include giving black people any "favourable advantage over white people" but only providing "equal opportunities" to everyone.

In the United States, however, although the project directed mainly to black communities (such as the "head start" programme for educating pre-school age children) have done some good, the conviction has grown that individual positive discrimination is not the answer. Education is vital to any genuine progress towards racial equality, and many students of race relations in this country now agree.

Why is there nevertheless almost universal opposition to such discrimination here? Some critics fear that favouritism for blacks or other minority citizens as individuals would increase rather than reduce racial tensions in Britain because it would provoke "backlash" against those blacks it was designed to help. Or that it would balkanise the nation by producing, for example, black doctors who would be allowed or expected to practise only in black ghettos.

No one can be confident that these practical fears are baseless. But the American experience is relevant, and suggests that they are overstated. For more than a decade many American universities, professions, schools and firms have tried to increase the numbers of blacks (and women) they enrolled or employed, in some cases by explicit quotas and in others by programmes which, while declining to set quotas, nevertheless aimed to improve their representation to a "target" proportion.

But there is little evidence of any general backlash or increased racial prejudice. (The "bussing" scheme, which required transporting schoolchildren great distances every day in order to achieve racially integrated schools, did provoke wide-scale backlash, but it involved great educational and personal costs to many white families, and was resisted on that account.) On the contrary, most observers consider that racial tension has actually been reduced. In recent years, despite the recession and sharply increased unemployment, questions remain even if the practical effects are as positive as this. Is positive discrimination unjust? That issue provoked a national debate in the

United States in 1978 when the famous Bakke case came to the Supreme Court. The medical school of the University of California at Davis had adopted an explicit quota system for admitting black and other minority students, and under this, a white student, Alan Bakke, was refused admission, even though his examination marks and other intellectual qualifications were superior to those of many black applicants admitted. Bakke sued, appealing to the clause of the United States constitution which provides that no state shall deny any person "equal protection of the laws".

The court decided for Bakke, but on the relatively narrow ground that the university had used, violated the equal-protection clause when used by state-funded institutions. The court said that more relaxed admissions schemes which take race into account as one factor among many, but which use informal targets rather than strict quotas, were legal.

Bakke became the focus of an intense public debate about the reality of positive discrimination. Opponents insisted that it is unfair to give blacks any special advantage in individual competition with white applicants for specific jobs or university places. They argued that applicants such as Bakke were entitled to be judged on their merits as individuals, not as members of one race rather than another, and pointed out that such applicants themselves often came from poor families and might be more "disadvantaged" than many blacks who benefited from the quota.

"Any plan that might reduce racial tension and racial inequality is in the general and not just in some sectarian interest"

Are these moral objections sound? This depends on what the argument is for or against. If positive discrimination is taken to be, it is sometimes said, on behalf of such discrimination, that blacks deserve special treatment because of the injustice they have suffered in the past. Against this claim the objection is that such discrimination is wrong. The particular blacks who benefit from quotas or more informal systems of special preference are not necessarily those who have suffered most, and there is no reason why particular white applicants who are injured by the system should assume the moral burden of society's past injustice.

But the true argument for positive discrimination is not the past injustice suffered by blacks as a whole, grey though this has been, or the present entitlement of any particular black to recompense for that injustice. It is rather the future benefit to the community as a whole. The riots which were the immediate occasion of Scarman were a danger and a disgrace to everyone, not simply to the blacks who suffered most, and any plan that might reduce racial tension and racial inequality is in the general and not just in some sectarian interest.

We cannot be certain that positive discrimination would in fact contribute to that goal. But the situation is so complex, here as well as in America, that it may prove necessary to try it, at least on a limited and experimental basis. Any criteria for filling jobs or places will exclude some candidates for reasons beyond their own control, and this is justified if the criteria are related to some genuine social need. Everyone assumes that it is proper, for example, to prefer applicants for university places who do well in exams over less clever applicants who would nevertheless benefit from education. But this judgment rests on the hypothesis that educating those who are thought to be more intelligent is a wise use of social resources.

The practical arguments for positive discrimination suggest that it might be wiser still, at least for the time being, to adopt slightly more complex standards that aim at a somewhat mixed goal of better racial balance as well as intelligence or skill. If so, this is no more unfair to those who would have been accepted under a straight "intellectual" test than the lower test is to those who are now excluded.

People of goodwill naturally shrink from the very idea of racial standards for employment or education or any other benefit. But we must not confuse the old discriminatory standards against blacks and minorities, nourished by generations of prejudice, with new standards that government or employers or academic institutions might adopt, reluctantly, as the most effective available weapon against the tragic sequel to that prejudice.

The author is Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford University

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

## They don't paint winters like this any more

Each Christmas brings many cards bearing time-honoured images of winter. The most frequently used of these are the landscapes of the Flemish and Dutch artists dating from the 1500s to the 1600s. They show a much colder and snowier season than our modern experience.

From Bruegel to Beersstraten we have a succession of delightful pictures of the impact of cold winters on the common people. What is fascinating is that so few memorable pictures of winter occur before or after this burst of activity. Why is our image of the northern winter so governed by the output from such a short period?

Apart from the extraordinarily precocious picture of February painted by one of the Limburg brothers in the Book of Hours around 1415, there seems to have been an artistic conspiracy to show the northern winter without snow and ice. From the eleventh century Anglo-Saxon astronomical calendar in the British Museum to the works of the great northern landscapists Altdorfer and Dürer, there is an absence of pictures showing cold, snowy winters.

Even more striking are the pictures of the Nativity. Many show the scene set in verdant leafy surroundings. Others at least have bare trees, but nowhere does snow and ice intrude. All this changed with Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

One obvious reason for the change was a marked deterioration in the climate between the first and second half of the sixteenth century - the start of the Little Ice Age. For instance, in France this shift led to an increase from



"Winter landscape with Skaters and Birdtrap," by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, a picture that was widely imitated.

four to 19 severe winters between the first and second halves of the century.

Probably more important was the fact that Bruegel was one of the great winterers of European history. It seems to have inspired Bruegel to paint five major pictures - plus possibly two others which are known only through copies by other artists - within a very short time.

His famous "Hunters in the Snow", from his cycle of

the seasons, clearly depicts an intensely cold winter in Flanders. His three nativity scenes established a new realism in handling sacred subjects. But it was his delightful picture "Winter Landscape with Skaters and Birdtrap" that was to set the mould for landscapists that followed.

This meticulous picture is an inspired tonal treatment in yellows and browns of light, solidified water and frozen earth. Here it is said

that Bruegel succeeded in painting the unpainable - the cold of the winter - and this profound influence on Flemish artists. For this reason it was the most widely copied and imitated of his works.

Other Flemish artists, such as Van Valkenborch, Gruney and Altdorfer, enthusiastically painted many winter scenes which developed Bruegel's images. But it was not until some 40 years later

that Dutch artists started to paint similar pictures, for which they are now justly famous.

Again it seems to have needed a great winter - that of 1608 - to spark off the Dutch movement of winter landscapes. This winter also most certainly inspired Hendrick Avercamp to paint his many detailed scenes of the joys of skating. The famous roudel in the National Gallery dates from this year.

Thereafter, Dutch artists

in increasing numbers explored the genre over the following 50 years or so. Starting with Van der Velde and Van Goyen, progressing through the works of Van der Capelle, Van Ostade and Berchem in the 1640s, it reached its pinnacle in the work of Jacob van Ruysdael in the 1650s and 1660s.

The Little Ice Age maintained its grip over Europe until the beginning of the nineteenth century, except for a remarkable but temporary amelioration in the early eighteenth century. But from about 1670 onwards, winter landscapes faded from artistic fashion: frosty winters had lost their charm.

While many artists produced variations on the Flemish and Dutch themes in later years, it was not until a century and a half later that Casper David Friedrich gave the winter landscape a new and visionary treatment. But his haunting and symbolic work did not have the same impact.

Beyond this, the improving climate of the nineteenth century apparently largely suppressed artistic interest in winter scenes. The work of Courbet and Manet effectively marked the end of the exploration of this theme.

These developments may explain the permanence of the image created by the Flemish and Dutch artists. More than anything else, it shows the pleasures of coming to terms with winter. As such it endures when the climatic extremes that created it are but a matter of historic record - even if it seems hard to believe in Britain this weekend.

W. J. Burroughs

Geoffrey Smith

## Why Howe should heed that lorry rumble

This has been a week of Tory revolts. On Tuesday evening 14 Conservative backbenchers abstained in the vote on Sir Geoffrey Howe's mini-Budget. On Wednesday 11 of them voted with the Opposition against any increase in heavy lorry weights, while a number of other Conservatives abstained.

On Thursday Mr Tom King, the Minister for Local Government, was carefully testing opinion at a Conservative backbench committee to see whether there would be sufficient support for the new Bill on local government finance. This has been prepared by Mr Michael Heseltine to replace the earlier one, whose controversial provision for referendums on supplementary rates was in effect vetoed by the objections of Conservative members, and the Government was clearly nervous that the new Bill might suffer the same fate.

That same evening the parliamentary week was to all intents and purposes concluded at the 1922 Committee of Conservative backbenchers with a discussion, which was better humoured than might have been expected, of the issue of backbench criticism of the Government.

So altogether it has been

quite a week for the Conservative Party in the House of Commons. But how serious has this upsurge of criticism been, and how great a threat does it pose to the Government's future? To some extent a greater inclination to rebel is to be expected of backbenchers these days whenever party is in office. They are more eager than previous generations of members to assert themselves. That is why it is no longer possible on either side of the House to impose discipline as tightly as in the past.

But the latest Tory rebellion cannot be attributed simply to this trend. There is a great deal of anxiety about the Government's economic policy, and consequently the party's political prospects. This anxiety is expressed not only in public revolt and private pressure on economic policy itself but also in a greater propensity to rebel on other questions.

This is partly out of frustration among those who have been partly smothering their unease on the big issue, and partly from irritation that the Government that is already in enough trouble should be so foolish as to risk the voters' wrath on peripheral matters.

The revolt on heavy lorries and the explosion of feeling over referendums on the rates should therefore be regarded as further indirect evidence of the doubt and tension in the party over economic policy. The number of those who actually refused to vote for the mini-Budget in the Commons may seem modest enough. A government with a comfortable overall majority ought to be able to put up with 14 rebels without too many qualms. But it is now almost certain that a majority of Conservative backbenchers are critics of the policy, and among those who are normally classed as supporters there are distinct reservations.

Indeed, some of his nominal supporters have so many doubts about what the Chancellor is doing that it would probably be more accurate to reclassify them as simply anti-wets. They would happily back what they have understood Sir Geoffrey's policy to be, if only he would put it into practice. Then there are those who continue to support the policy, but without evident conviction. It is rather less than a ringing declaration of faith when a person says that it is too late to change course now, or that there can be no certainty that any other strategy would be more successful.

There is another group of apparent supporters who say the policy is all right but they wish Sir Geoffrey would present it more effectively. If only they listened, the country could be made to understand what is being done. There are usually deeper reasons for worry whenever politicians start to complain about the presentation of a policy.

But if Sir Geoffrey has cause to be uneasy about some of his friends, what about his critics? They can be divided into different groups in terms of purpose and approach. There are

some who want the Chancellor to investigate an increase in spending because they genuinely believe this would get the economy moving again. There are others who are not so sure that more spending would really help the economy, but who believe that at least it would show that the Government was trying to do something about the continuing recession and rising unemployment. In other words, they are looking principally to the immediate political effects of economic action.

Although these two groups differ in their analysis, there is no reason why they should not make common cause. Both of them want the Chancellor to change course. But there is a difference on tactics among the Tory critics which cuts right across the distinction between the economists and the politicians. Some prefer to launch a public assault, bellowing either that such open pressure is the best way to induce the Cabinet to insist on a change of direction, or that it is at least the

most promising means of persuading their constituents that they should not be blamed personally for the Government's economic failings. With the SDP and the Liberals now breathing down many a Conservative neck, that is now quite an important consideration. Or they may possibly believe that public criticism of the Government today is the best method of putting down a personal marker.

Another group of critics, though, is concerned above all to bring an adjustment of policy, and believes that for the moment that is more likely to be achieved by semi-private persuasion - or at any rate by avoiding open rebellion against the Wings in the Commons. Mr Chris Patten's article in *The Times* on Tuesday was a notable example of this school of thought.

These two groups, the open attackers and the private persuaders, are likely to maintain their different tactics at least until the Budget. But if the Chancellor makes no concession to them then

he will have serious trouble in the party. There is no serious demand among Conservative backbenchers for massive reflation. There is no general agreement even among Sir Geoffrey's critics as to precisely what he should do. But if he is not to have difficulty from the benches behind him he will have to take some steps, either direct or indirect, to ease the burden on industry.

If he fails to do that, how serious will the trouble be? It would not lead to the fall of the Government or of Mrs Thatcher personally. It might lead to the fall of Sir Geoffrey, with an increasing number even of his supposed supporters murmuring that the more uncomfortable the policy the more it needs to be presented with sparkle. It would not lead to the rejection of the Budget in the Commons, but the Finance Bill might well be mangled quite a bit. It would not lead to the break-up of the party, for all their woes, the Conservatives remain a greater basic cohesion than is widely appreciated.

But the impression would be intensified of a government that had lost its way. An administration may continue to win every vote in the Commons but be morally wounded by the criticisms of its followers.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, Telephone: 01-837 1234

## TWO CARPS IN A POND OF PIKE

Whenever the two Germanies get together there are people who feel twinges of alarm. Are the two German states going to start tugging themselves free of their respective alliances in order to move surreptitiously towards German unity? Alternatively, is West Germany being sucked into a special relationship with Moscow's satellite that will weaken its commitment to the western alliance and render it gradually into a suitable case for blackmail?

At the moment both fears are totally unjustified because both Germanies are loyal to their alliances. East Germany is utterly dependent on Soviet armed forces for its existence and closely tied into the Soviet economy, on which it depends for energy, raw materials and export markets. West Germany has more freedom of manoeuvre but also depends on its alliance for its own security and that of West Berlin. It is wholly committed to the political and economic communities of the west. There is no significant political force in West Germany that would favour detachment.

The immediate importance of this weekend's meeting between Herr Schmidt and Herr Honecker must therefore be sought elsewhere. It lies in the intimate complexity of the relationship between the states, and the role which this relationship plays in the affairs of the two alliances. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, and relations between the super powers deteriorated sharply, a planned meeting between Herr Honecker and Herr Schmidt was called off. But the two men were able to reach an amicable agreement on the terms of the conversation. After that, although they did not meet, they found themselves pushed closer together by the antagonism of the super powers. Admittedly Herr Honecker then made life difficult for West Germans by quite

inexcusably raising the amount of money they have to exchange when visiting East Germany, and by reneging the demand that West Germany recognize a separate East German citizenship, but underlying this there remained a strong common desire to keep the relationship in being.

Each side has very specific reasons for doing this. East Germany badly needs West German credits and trade. Its economy is coming under increasing strain. Its standard of living has almost ceased improving, and its terms of trade are deteriorating. The cost of Soviet oil imports to East Germany is now ten times what it was in 1970, although the quantity has only doubled. The Polish events have not helped either. In addition East Germany needs the political goodwill of the West German government because of the extent to which its population is exposed to the West German media. A severe deterioration of relations with Bonn would immediately affect the climate within East Germany.

On the West German side there is also a substantial (though proportionately much smaller) stake in east-west trade. But the main factor is the political obligation to keep open contacts with the people of East Germany, and to avoid anything which might make life more difficult for West Berlin. Behind this lies a constitutional obligation to strive for German unity and a general awareness that any government of West Germany must keep the management of the German question in its hands in order to prevent its being seized and exploited by other groups or parties.

One result of this mutual interest in preserving some of the gains of détente through the post-Afghanistan freeze was to provoke suspicion and resentment in Washington, where West Germany was seen as not pulling its weight, or even as undermining western

efforts to impose sanctions on the Soviet block. There was justification for feeling that West Germany might have taken Afghanistan more seriously, but there was also a failure to grasp the complexities of the German dilemma, and the extent to which the Ostpolitik of West Germany can be an asset to the western alliance.

Throughout the fifties and into the sixties the refusal of West Germany to come to terms with the post-war frontiers and the existence of East Germany froze its own diplomacy into impotence and gave the Soviet block Union a useful enemy against which to hold its alliance together. As soon as the eastern treaties were signed the situation became more fluid, and German influence could be deployed in eastern Europe to the general benefit of the peoples of the area and the interests of the West.

This fluidity now opens up long-term issues. The German question has not been settled. No peace treaty has been signed since the Second World War, the present division is still regarded as provisional. Neither side has seen its own solution prevail. East German leaders still pay lip service to the idea of a united socialist Germany, while the West Germans are still pledged to free elections throughout Germany in the justified conviction that democracy would win.

Yet in fact neither expects any movement in the future, and each is struggling with mounting problems which induce a more humble attitude towards ideological solutions than was visible in the past. This is another factor making for closeness, as ideological competition gives way to pragmatic cooperation. Where it will lead is impossible to say, but for the moment the relationship is more of an asset than a liability to the preservation of peace in Europe.

## AND WE SHALL HAVE SNOW

We may leave it to the economists to compute how much the snow fall is costing the country. It will be a comfortable indoor occupation for them, working it out at the fireside with their pocket calculators. Except in Scottish skiing resorts, which seem to be the only part of Britain where it is not snowing, snow is almost a pure loss on the balance sheet, what with delays for staff and merchandise, damage and cost of clearing. A national price to be put on the inevitable broken bones and even death: it is not likely that the workers rescuing casualties in the Buckinghamshire rail crash yesterday looked upon the snowdrifts with any sentimental feeling.

But on everyday terms, the most difficult problem presented by a fall of snow is not economic but social. There is nothing like it for exercising the sympathetic antennae. It is essential, as one crumples over the fresh powder, to divine in good time which of the two mutually exclusive positions on the subject will be taken by each person one meets. As far as snow is concerned, there is no middle ground, no Social Democratic stance. Either it is an inspiring challenge or it is an inspiring shovelling. The Drunkard spirit, or it is the worst thing that happened since the drains blocked.

It is unseasonably cruel to pour cold water on views of the former sort, but still more unkind to buttonhole a shivering friend cast into dejection by the evil trick of the weather, and detain him with rhapsodies about the scenery. But it is not always easy to tell which category everyone belongs to.

It is easy to guess the feelings of those shuffling over the icy patches with a red nose and permeable shoes and of those striding along as if on the last lap to the summit of Everest, visibly thanking God for having matched them with this hour of initiative to perform. Like jumping out of delayed trains, and paralysing half of Southern Region by tramping along beside the live rail. But there are many ambiguous cases.

As a crude rule of thumb, those under 30 tend to rejoice and those over 30 to reprove. As an extreme instance, the hour God matched many children to on the first morning of the snow was well before sunrise, when they discovered the snow and after which nobody in the neighbourhood got much sleep. Perhaps by breakfast time the satisfaction all challenges presented by the crisis of sledding, snowballing, and snowman building, and were

ready to go off and drowse the day away at school, their part in the national emergency accomplished.

But exceptions even to this rule are easy to find: the same morning a man of advanced years was seen stripped to the waist in a City park, doing physical jerks in the sunshine. A grizzled eccentric on Hampstead Heath yesterday patiently waited in steady snowfall for a model three-masted ship, picking its way between ice floes across the pond. The proverbial octogenarians who break the ice to swim on Christmas day were not to be seen. But no doubt they were up on Parliament Hill, building igloos.

Those living north of Watford may smile when Londoners make such a to-do about something that is an everyday irritation to them for much of the year. It would be frivolous to enjoy the transformation that snow works on the City without a thought for the mischief it brings. But it may be a decade before Londoners see such a fall again, the right constituency to outline the tree branches for days on end, and make all the state's time with ingenuously white scarves and hats — with sunshine too to show the effect off to best advantage. It would be ungrateful not to enjoy it before it turns to slush.

### Days off sick

From Mr Richard Worsley  
Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent reported (December 10), that agreement had been reached between the Government, doctors and both sides of industry on a scheme of self-certification for absence from work due to sickness.

This is not so. The CBI has been in discussion with the Department of Health and Social Security, the British Medical Association, and the Trades Union Congress on how such arrangements might operate, both under the present National Insurance scheme and particularly under the Employer's Statutory Sick Pay Scheme, which is due to come into operation in April, 1983.

No agreement has yet been reached and these discussions are continuing. We have consulted CBI members and have met mixed views on the issue of self-certification. Some fear that it could lead to greater absenteeism; others, including a number who already operate a system of self-certification, believe that it could improve the employer's control of sickness absence.

Much will depend on the control procedures for its operation, and these are still under discussion.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WORSLEY,  
Confederation of British Industry,  
105 New Oxford Street, W.C1.

### Sixth-form strategy

From Professor Eric Briault  
Sir, Keith Joseph's rejection of Manchester's plans for sixth-form colleges and 11-16 schools, reported on November 14, is a disappointing decision. The Department of Education and Science funded research project on falling rolls in secondary schools, which I directed, showed clearly the problems of sustaining a sixth-form college in a contracting school. Moreover, the largest age groups are now entering the sixth form and the 17-plus age groups will be smaller in every successive year till the middle 1990s.

The fall in rolls in Manchester and other similar areas such as Liverpool and inner London will be much above the national average of 30 per cent. I remain in favour of the 11-18 school as I was when Education Officer in the Inner London Education Authority, provided it is large enough to offer the sixth-form students the curricular opportunities which they deserve in social and educational peer groups of adequate size.

In the circumstances of Manchester as you describe them it is clear that this would obviously only be possible if the number of secondary schools were drastically reduced, involving closures which would no doubt be as strongly opposed as the present plans have been. Why must the future sixth formers in many schools suffer for the sake of

preserving the three named schools? Even those schools will only retain their present strength in five or 10 years' time if their intake is kept at its present level, involving throwing all the weight of contraction on the other schools. The problem of too many smaller schools with small sixth forms can be reduced by cooperative arrangements between schools. But as the DES cautiously warned in 1973, "an important question is always how far cooperation between autonomous institutions, however willingly or diligently pursued by all parties, can ensure that the education offered to individuals will be fully satisfactory."

One would have hoped that Sir Keith would have had regard to the educational disadvantages of very small sixth forms, the economic penalty of tiny teaching groups involving the extravagantly low pupil/teacher ratios, and the expressed preference of students themselves, as shown in the NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) study (1979) for separate post-16 provision.

One cannot help wondering whether Sir Keith has yielded to the special pleading of the few to the disadvantage, in years to come, of the many.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC BRIAULT,  
Education Development Building,  
University of Sussex,  
Falmer,  
Brighton,  
Sussex.

## Treating complaints against police

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)  
Sir, The Police Federation are making a big mistake if they try to backtrack, as their chairman Mr Jim Jardine is now indicating (report, December 10), from their clear commitment a month ago to take the investigation of complaints against the police out of police hands and "hand it over lock, stock and barrel to a new body".

The grounds for doing this have not altered. It is wrong that a complaint against a policeman should be dealt with by another policeman. It is wrong that the policeman's report, when completed, should be kept secret from the complainant who then has no idea of its accuracy or cohesiveness and has no chance to refute any counter-allegations which the policeman complained against may have made against him. And it is wrong that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should decide, as he does at present, whether or not to prosecute the policeman concerned solely on the basis of the secret written police report, without any direct interviewing of either the complainant or the policeman involved.

It is breathtaking that Mr Jardine can now say: "I don't think you can get anybody more independent than the DPP". Can he really believe this when the DPP prosecutes only 1.3 per cent on average of the 2,500-3,000 policemen complained against each year on grounds of assault? Does he really think it justified that in not one of the 60 serious assault cases sent to me from all over the country in the last two years, and which I have submitted as a dossier to the Home Office, did the DPP take proceedings against any of the policemen concerned?

The Police Federation have already tried to block the effectiveness of a switch to an independent investigator by demanding that the right to prosecute be reserved to the fullest extent. For they have insisted that policemen should have all the suspects' rights they have so roundly opposed for others in the past, notably protection of the Judges' Rules during questioning, including the right to silence, as well as legal representation and a right of appeal to the Crown Court. Surely this is enough protection, if not too much, in accepting a reform without which the complaints system will utterly lose all credibility?

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL MEACHER,  
House of Commons,  
December 10.

## Lack of consultation on university cut

From Professor P. R. Ackroyd and  
Sir, We are senior university teachers who serve, or have lately served, in the Studentship Selection Committee of the Department of Education and Science. This committee chooses suitable candidates for three-year and one-year postgraduate research awards in the humanities (modern and classical languages and linguistics, English literature, history, archaeology, philosophy, theology, law, art, architecture and music) in universities and other institutions of higher education throughout England and Wales.

The committee was informed last June that for the academic year 1981-82 the number of these awards was to be reduced by about 25 per cent. With the selection process now complete, the annual number of new awards has indeed fallen from an average of 1,175 in 1978-79 to a total of 884 for 1981-82: the number of three-year "major" studentships has declined from an average of 716 in 1978-81 to 536, and the number of one-year "state" studentships (for master's to 348.

We feel that so large a reduction in state support for research in the humanities ought not to have been implemented without some opportunity for open and informed discussion. We have learned, at a recent meeting, that no official announcement of this major change of policy was made. We are concerned at the serious threat which such a cut will undoubtedly pose to the recruitment for many valuable one-year master's courses. At the doctoral level, the cumulative effect of the cut, taken over three years, will

## Scientific tests for Darwinism

From Professor J. M. Thoday, FRS  
Sir, Contemporary discussions about evolution often confuse a number of issues. They would be clearer if the protagonists said precisely which of the following they refer to when discussing "Darwinism":

1. The theory of evolution proper, which states that the diversity of living forms arose through modification by descent, most if not all forms having originated from common ancestors. This was the theory that Darwin established.
2. The theory that evolution is directed, by natural selection. This was the mechanism of evolution Darwin (and Wallace) proposed. The theory of evolution proper does not stand or fall on the truth or adequacy of the explanation in terms of natural selection.
3. It is to this theory that an argument quite commonly made, especially by physical scientists, that it is quite improbable that natural selection of "chance" mutations could have produced what has been produced, refers.

The argument is weak. It ignores the fact that organisms would be dead if they were not organised, so that the fact that they are organised can provide no evidence about their origins. It does not take into account biological numbers (the number of possible combinations of the elements of the genetic material) which are far larger than astronomical numbers, or that the peculiar property of life is that it can multiply its novelties. It also involves the assumption that evolution had to produce what has been produced, rather than any of an indefinite number of other possible worlds. This assumption is anthropocentric, if not egocentric.

3. The question whether evolution has proceeded at a uniform rate, or whether there have been periods of rapid evolution and periods relatively static. Neither the first nor second theories depends on whether this is true or not. That there might be periods of rapid evolution is no new suggestion, and it is not a necessity of the theory of evolution by natural selection that it should produce change at constant rates. Nor is there any requirement that mutation rates be constant.
4. The question whether the formation of new species depends on the same mechanisms as led different populations of a single species to diverge into different races. Again, the theory of evolution proper does not stand or fall on the answer.

The theory of evolution proper provides a consistent explanation of the common properties of organisms based on a vast body of data from systematics, plant and animal geography, comparative anatomy, embryology, behaviour studies, physiology, biochemistry, cytology and genetics as well as fossil evidence. It is a falsifiable theory, as Professors Falconer and Robertson clearly show in their letter today (December 9). It also provides a more consistent explanation of the facts than do the two quite different accounts of the creation in the Bible.

It obfuscates the issue if modifications to our theories of the mechanisms of evolution are discussed as if they had a bearing on the evidence that evolution has occurred. No, it is our explanations of the mechanisms of evolution are perfect: otherwise why should we continue research? But it should not be supposed that changes or improvements in these explanations affect the validity of the theory of evolution proper.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. THODAY,  
University of Cambridge:  
Department of Genetics,  
Downing Street,  
Cambridge.  
December 9.

## Academics' freehold

From Professor P. Banks  
Sir, Far from being the anachronism suggested in your leader (December 1) academic tenure may yet prove to be the only protection universities have against Government policies which jeopardise their future in the face of doubtful budgetary savings.

Were it not for the cost inherent in breaking contracts with tenure there would be little possibility of persuading the Government to extend by two years the period in which expenditure cuts have to be implemented and of thereby softening their impact. Therefore to surrender tenure as part of the package to secure that extra period of grace, as you suggest, would be for universities to lose their only effective buffer against the too rapid implementation of any future policies which could similarly inflict long-lasting injuries.

The universities exist to preserve our past culture and to lay the foundations of our future wealth and civilization by teaching and research. Academic tenure ensures that these essential, and often long-term, objectives are not continually at risk from short-term expediency.

More than ever before, the future of the nation depends upon its universities: if they do not remain vigorous centres of innovation and train a greater proportion of our young people than at present, the United Kingdom will rapidly become a post-industrial desert.

It is quite absurd for you to blur that fundamental fact by anecdotal reference to idle dons coasting to retirement on their tenures, whilst you fail to recognise that, perhaps unexpectedly, tenure may protect the institution as well as the individual.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BANKS,  
Department of Biochemistry,  
The University of Sheffield,  
December 2.

serve our past culture and to lay the foundations of our future wealth and civilization by teaching and research. Academic tenure ensures that these essential, and often long-term, objectives are not continually at risk from short-term expediency.

More than ever before, the future of the nation depends upon its universities: if they do not remain vigorous centres of innovation and train a greater proportion of our young people than at present, the United Kingdom will rapidly become a post-industrial desert.

It is quite absurd for you to blur that fundamental fact by anecdotal reference to idle dons coasting to retirement on their tenures, whilst you fail to recognise that, perhaps unexpectedly, tenure may protect the institution as well as the individual.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BANKS,  
Department of Biochemistry,  
The University of Sheffield,  
December 2.

## A princess's privacy

From Mr C. D. Gibson  
Sir, In your rather sanctimonious leading article, "The captive Princess" (December 9), you criticise other newspapers for publishing photographs of the Princess of Wales on the grounds that "one represented an 'immoral intrusion' into her private life and that the other showed a lack of consideration for her feelings".

Whether or not one agrees with the arguments advanced in your leader, they might perhaps carry a little more weight, and would certainly be more persuasive, if you did not choose to publish in the same edition of the paper the very photographs at which you take umbrage.

Yours faithfully,  
C. D. GIBSON,  
3 Hayes Barton,  
Pyrford,  
Wentworth,  
Surrey.  
December 9.

## Church unity

From the Chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford  
Sir, The great Church based on Roman Catholicism, which Bishops John Moorman and Edward Knapp-Fisher envisage in their letter today (December 5), may be coming but there is very little likelihood of its concrete realization for many years yet. Their advice to wait and wait for it is not very challenging.

In contrast, the "Covenanting for Unity" proposals offer the Church of England and the four other Churches concerned a unique opportunity to show in concrete terms here and now how the larger ideal might be achieved. All these Churches are being asked to sink their pride and prejudices and on the basis of the proposals to give full recognition at last to each other's Christian witness and values. Together they may begin to convince those who are justifiably sceptical that Christianity does stand for reconciliation. If, in the world as it is, the Christian Churches cannot put reconciliation into practice, calling oneself a Christian will count for little, however grand one's visions of the future.

On the negative side, a Church of England which at this stage of its deliberations withdrew the hand of friendship from its closest Christian neighbours for fear of being jilted by the Roman Catholic Church some time in the future would disgrace itself. Not only so, it would show itself to have little of distinctive Christian worth to offer the Roman Catholic Church or any coming Church at any stage where it is due. The Church of England is not ultimately answerable to the Roman Catholic or the orthodox Churches, but to God revealed in

Jesus Christ. If it does what it believes to be right in that faith, in may be able to provide an inspiring example to the other great Churches of the Western and Eastern traditions.

Much of the opposition to the covenanting surely stems from the undue deference paid to the ancient traditions of Christendom. It betrays a sad lack of confidence in the role which the Church of England can play, together with other Churches in this country, in the creation of the coming great Church. This must indeed ultimately embrace the present great Churches in East and West, but it is not necessarily our vocation to wait for others to act.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR S. M. WILLIAMS,  
Trinity College, Oxford.

## Attorneys General

From the Lord Chancellor  
Sir, May I trespass on your columns to make a public apology? In reply to a parliamentary question (December 10) in the House of Lords by a curious lapse of the tongue, though not of memory, I managed to refer to my father as Attorney General at the time of the Central case.

Sir Patrick Hastings was, of course, the Attorney General. My father, in the interval between his two terms of office as Attorney General, was his principal critic.

Yours, etc.,  
KALISHAM,  
House of Lords,  
December 11.

## Conserving woodlands

From Mrs Georgina Clayton  
Sir, I was interested to read Mr George Marten's letter today (December 4) in which he states the economic difficulties facing owners today in the upkeep of hardwood woodlands.

The tourist of France, Germany and Switzerland cannot help noticing how proportionately greater areas of their countries are covered by deciduous woodlands in Switzerland, some communities (parishes) own their own woods and these are managed on behalf of the inhabitants to produce wood for burning.

The wood stacked beside the houses is of smaller diameter than the split logs more usual here. Possibly the old coppicing method is used, which by using natural regrowth saves expensive re-planting.

Now in this country, when so many people have wood stores, but the supply of dead elm is beginning to run out in some areas, would this not be the moment to take a lesson from our

## Continental neighbours

and devote some of our woodlands to short term and hopefully more economic wood production?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGINA CLAYTON,  
6 Cobden Crescent,  
Edinburgh.

## Preserving film

From Dr R. E. D. Clark  
Sir, David Robinson (article, November 18), Richard Relf (letter, November 24) and Mr F. C. Gee (letter, December 8) all rightly bemoan the loss of nitrate film at the National Film Archive. But although David Robinson mentions the additional risk occasioned by hot days, no mention has been made of the possibility of preservation by cooling.

The rate of chemical change is vastly reduced by even a moderate fall in temperature and it would seem that refrigeration, or possible removal to a colder climate, might be desirable until such time as copies can be made on "non-flam" film.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT E. D. CLARK,  
29 Almond Grove,  
Cambridge.  
December 9.

## Miners' pay

From Mr P. G. Evans  
Sir, Whilst sympathising with Mr Arthur Scargill's intention to negotiate the best possible pay and conditions for the miners, as is his duty, I submit that what the market will stand, but surely this must include supplies of coal from other sources overseas, including that produced by the miners of South Africa.

The miners should be paid what the market will stand, but surely this must include supplies of coal from other sources overseas, including that produced by the miners of South Africa.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER G. EVANS,  
19 Ladbroke Grove W11.

## Far from clear

From Mr Robert Gresham Gray  
Sir, The battering with a weighty object of what were once ice cubes but lately ice pack is an activity common in many households around 6.30 in the evening.

The nature of the game has of course changed from the days when the trick was to dislodge the ice tray with a knife whilst trying at the same time to remove the fingers of the other balancing hand from the shell of the freezer compartment without too much loss of skin.

It may be however that Mrs Roase's enigmatic problem (December 4) has a simple cause. Upon removal from the freezer, radiant heat, present in all kitchens from lights, cookers and windows, will find a clear bag easier to penetrate than an opaque bag, thereby making the contents of the clear bag "sweat" more easily than those of the opaque type. The minuscule amount of water thus released will, when the bag is replaced in the freezer, amalgamate the cubes into that cold unyielding lump so familiar to many tipplers. QED?

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT GRESHAM GRAY,  
2 Elysage Road, SW18.

## More or less?

From Mr Jeremy Lee-Browne  
Sir, Mrs R. G. M. Williams asks (December 9) whether women have ever been a minority group. They became one in Genesis IV when Eve bore Cain, and an even smaller minority in verse 2 when she bore Abel.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY LEE-BROWNE,  
Park Farm House,  
Fairford,  
Gloucestershire,  
December 9.







# Saturday Review

Bernard Levin traces his musical path from

abandoned violin lessons to willing surrender of head, heart

and soul: from his new book, 'Conducted Tour' (Cape £7.50)

## My music by Bernard Levin

I do not come of a musical family. There was a piano in the parlour of my infancy, an upright with handsome scoops, and among my earliest memories are those of the regular visits of the tuner, whom I would watch in astonishment and fascination, having no idea what he was doing, or why. But I have only the most fleeting recollection of ever hearing it played; even if I have not imagined the scene altogether, the only possible pianist would have been a favourite aunt who died young. One of my mother's two brothers played the cello, though in a dance-band, and the brother-in-law of my other uncle was a violinist in the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and was destined much later to play a significant part in my discovery of music, but apart from these the only other musical theme in my childhood was one which nearly put me off music altogether for the rest of my life.

When I was born, and I dare say the tradition still persists, it was the custom of every Jewish mother of humble origin and unmonetary circumstances to be convinced that her son, particularly if he was an only son (as I was), was destined to be the next Kreisler or Heifetz. By the time I was old enough for the theory to be put to the test on me, the currently envisaged destiny was for the child to be the next Menuhin, who was the most recent in the line of prodigies; when Yehudi Menuhin's sensational London debut took place I was one year old, and I have no doubt that my mother, reading accounts of the *Wunderkind* in the *News Chronicle*, gazed thoughtfully at my cot and began to think about the pride she would feel as her son trotted knickerbockered on to the platform at the Albert Hall and trotted off an hour later with his hair full of rose-petals.

When I was seven, therefore, a miniature violin was bought for me, like the old dancing-master's "kit". It came equipped with a bow, a plentiful supply of rosin, a yellow duster, and a fat little black cushion which rested between my left collarbone and the back of the violin; the purpose of this device neither anybody else understood, and indeed it remained obscure to me until ten minutes ago when, embarking on this sentence, it occurred to me to solve the ancient mystery by consultation with Grove, who explained that the cushion was used to prevent the player hunching up his left shoulder in the effort to keep the instrument steady, and thus running the risk of impairing his left-hand technique.

All that remained was for a tutor to be engaged. I do not know what was the going rate for violin lessons in the mid-1930s; not very much, I suppose. But however small the fees may have been, I have no doubt that they were a considerable strain on the family finances, particularly since equity demanded that my sister should be taught an instrument too. In her case the piano, though in her case without expectations of the Albert Hall.

When I think of what now followed, and by what hair's breadth I avoided acquiring a lasting hatred of the very thought of music and an even more intense loathing of its sound, I offer up a *Heilige Dankgesang* to St Cecilia, and beseech her to intervene, as she surely must have done for me, on behalf of I know not how many other children who, with no innate musical aptitude, fall into the hands of teachers who are quite unable to convey to them any sense whatever of what music actually is, apart from the notes on the paper and the horrible noises that the unprodigious infant makes in an attempt to reproduce them.

Such a teacher was the well-meaning soul who took my musical tuition in hand, and who, for two-and-a-half years before I finally struck work and refused to spend another minute practising in such torment, left me in complete ignorance even of the fact that there were such things as works of music—sonatas, quartets, concertos, even symphonies—let alone that it was possible to go and listen to them, and derive much enjoyment from doing so. For two-and-a-half years I laboured at this joyless thing they called music without so much as learning the name of a single composer, or indeed discovering that such people existed. Up and down the scales I went, progressing in the end as far as a rendition of "The Bluebells of Scotland"; I have detested that tune ever since, and it is a mercy I have not grown up with a similar abhorrence of bluebells, or even Scotland.

Of course, there was Sir Robert Mayer, whose Children's Concerts had been going since 1922; but even Sir Robert had to wait until somebody—parent, uncle, teacher, friend—actually brought the child to the hall, and nobody thought to bring me. Some time after my ninth birthday, therefore, I abandoned my violin for ever, and acquired a scooter in its place; I frequently fell off it and skinned my knees, but I never doubted that I had got the better of the bargain.

My boarding-school, Christ's Hospital, though no Bryanston or Dartington, was very musical; there was an orchestra and a choir as well as a brass band, and rooms for practice. But the burns child shunned the fire, and it was not until my last couple of years, when a group of the more musical boys founded a gramophone society and began to give recitals on Sunday afternoons, that, for the first time in my life, I sat down and listened to music.

I wish I could say that there and then the gates of heaven were flung open for me, but it was a slow business at first. Some years ago, talking to Colin Davis, who had not long since been appointed Musical Director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, I reminded him that we had been at the same school (he, already musical, had played the clarinet in the orchestra) and asked him how his early interest in music had been aroused. He could fix the occasion precisely; as a child he had heard Beethoven's Eighth Symphony on the radio, and been pierced through the soul by the revelation it offered him.

"But you make it sound," I said, "like a religious conversion." "Yes," he replied, "that's exactly what it was like." No such experience befell me; but without doubt those afternoons in Big Hall ploughed the soil and planted the seed.

A little before my eighteenth birthday, I went to a Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall; it must have been the first post-war season of the revived Proms. A few days later, I went to another, and returned the following night for a third. In the end, I went to some thirty concerts in the two months of the Proms, and a month or so later I scrambled up to the gallery of Covent Garden for my first opera. Whatever music was, it had happened to me at last.

There followed a great making-up for lost time; for several years, I must have spent an average of fully three evenings a week on music. If it wasn't a concert or an opera it was the gramophone, usually at the home of my cousin Clive, the son of the London Philharmonic violinist; he had discovered music at much the same time as I had, and together we haunted the galleries of the Albert Hall and

Covent Garden, the Sunday night chamber-music concerts at Conway Hall (a shilling—sit-anywhere—and twopenny for a programme), the maiden-auntish Wigmore, little dreaming that in the fullness of the years someone would build an even uglier concert-room, and call it the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Uncle Alex used to get us tickets for the LPO's concerts at a reduced price; more, he would often look in on us in Clive's room as we listened, discussed and argued, and join in the musical conversations. He was no theoretician or musicologist, but he conveyed to us a vast amount of musical understanding, from the bee's-eye viewpoint of an orchestral player; if only it had been he who had put that fiddle under my chin, and bade me play "The Bluebells of Scotland".

He also taught us some of the rhymes that orchestral musicians—a notoriously ribald lot—sing under their breath to familiar tunes, and to this day I cannot hear the waltz from the *Serenade* for Strings by Tchaikovsky without also hearing a quatern which begins "Have you seen our Nellie make water?"

But to this day, also, I cannot hear Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto without conjuring up the magical years in which I was making my journey into music. We cannot remember how the practice began, but Clive and I invariably used to end our evenings at the gramophone by playing the Third Brandenburg; its palate-cleansing properties (for who could go to bed on the Eroica or the Brahms Fourth?) provided the perfect coda for such occasions, and left us hungry for more when the next occasion presented itself. I later heard it played, with variations, by a busking violinist in a passage-way of the Madrid Underground, and the trick worked instantly; before three bars had gone by, I was drowning in memories.

After the how, the who. At that age, you have to be very odd not to fall without reservation under the spell of Beethoven, and for me, too, he was music's god. As the years go by, I find—this, also, is not an uncommon phenomenon—that Beethoven's hold weakens. Nowadays, a year can easily pass without my hearing the Emperor, whereas at the age of nineteen I was convinced that I would die if I didn't hear it once a fortnight.

"All life," I once wrote, "is a progress towards Mozart," and what I meant (the remark was widely misunderstood) was that the older we get the more we seek, unless we are incapable of seeking anything, for an answer to those questions which Mozart asks but which Beethoven (the symphonic Beethoven, at any rate) simply buries beneath the molten lava pouring from his volcanic certainty, optimism and joy. Nowadays, I listen far more often to the Beethoven quartets, particularly the late ones, than to the symphonies, and to the piano sonatas than to the concertos, and my evenings are far more often spent in the company of Mozart and Schubert, who were only on the fringes of my young musical life when Beethoven reigned in glory.

Next came Wagner, which was the *coup de foudre*. I heard the *Tannhäuser* Overture on the radio one evening, and can only describe my feelings in the words attributed to Lescaur at his first hearing of the Beethoven Fifth: "I couldn't put on my hat, because I couldn't find my head."

In those days, Wagner had an evening a week to himself at the Proms, but the war-long ban on performances of his music meant that those young people who were a few years my senior had grown up, musically, without him, and I have a vivid recollection of vast empty spaces in the Promen-



ade, where the young usually stood, while the rest of the Albert Hall was crammed to suffocation with the older concert-goers who had learned to love Wagner before they learned that they shared that love with Hitler, and were getting their first doses of the drug for six years, while I gulped it down by the bucket with all the enthusiasm of the newly addicted.

Does his hold weaken too? Yes, it does, though even now, when I hear the opening bars of the Prelude to *Tristan*, or the merest growl from Fafner as a snatch of *Siegfried* passes by, or the shimmering wonder of the Good Friday Spell from *Parsifal*, the passion flares up, and in a few seconds I am once again drunk beyond breathalizers. Besides, though I can now conceive of a time when I no longer want, or at least need, to hear the Ring or *Tristan*, *Lohengrin* or even *Parsifal*, I cannot see how life would be possible without *The Mastersingers*. For *The Mastersingers* is life itself, in all its passing shadows and enduring splendour, and I could no more imagine, or indeed find tolerable, a world without it than I could think myself into a world without *The Marriage of Figaro*.

But the shift of emphasis to *The Mastersingers* is a vital clue. In my early days of Wagner-mania, the four volumes of Shaw's music criticism were my four gospels; I read them until I knew huge chunks of them by heart, and I can recite much of them still. It is unwise to assume that the only influence on the development of a musical taste is the music, for the written word can set off explosions of its own; I had

read Shaw on Wagner (not only the criticisms but *The Perfect Wagnerite*) well before that first hearing of the *Tannhäuser* Overture, and he had not only awakened my curiosity but in a very real sense injected the fever-agent into my bloodstream, so that I was already in a sufficiently debilitated state to make it certain that I would succumb as soon as I was exposed to the more potent strain of the bacillus in the form of the music itself.

It was only many years later, when I began to notice that there were more clergymen in the Royal Opera House on Wagner nights than at performances of any other composer's works, and that most of them were alone, that I also began to wonder what it was in Wagner that appealed to me so much, and what it was that I had in common with the clergymen and Shaw, and for that matter Hitler. We may fear the great emotions, but we need them, and if we cannot allow them into our lives directly, we are under the necessity of bringing them in vicariously, and therefore, we like to think, safely. Whence the clergymen, Hitler, and me. And whence, at last now, the weakening hold.

I came to some composers very late, for purely accidental reasons; when I was setting out on the great journey, Bruckner was hardly known at all in Britain, and his symphonies were therefore very little played; it was years before I began to get to know those vast cathedrals and to realize that their composer can stand comparison with Beethoven himself; there are fashions in music as in everything else, and from fashion grows habit, and habit plays a much greater part

in the settlement of our musical and other tastes than we like to think. (I did not get the Sibelius habit early, and the consequence is that I have still not got it, and am conscious whenever I hear one of the symphonies that I am missing a great deal. But I think that I shall never get the habit of Mahler.)

Mozart and Schubert, however, took hold only very gradually. There was plenty of Mozart available, of course, when I was young, though not so much Schubert as there is now, and of course I listened to a lot of it, and of course I had no doubt that here was one of the highest peaks in the whole range. Yet even the symphonies, even the operas themselves, did not touch me as deeply as did Beethoven and Wagner, and every new discovery I made in those formative days served, though I did not then know it, to push further away the moment of true awakening.

There was Richard Strauss, for instance, who at first had almost as 'overwhelming' an effect as Wagner; Rosenkranz went straight on to the top shelf of the Pantheon. Nowadays, having more knowledge of what cunning can do, I see through it, and watch it with one eyebrow up and one down; but there is no danger of its ever being expelled from its place. There was also Rossini, who is surely the most under-rated genius in all music, much more so even than Haydn, for Haydn is underrated only by fools, whereas Rossini is dismissed even by many of the understanding.

But Mozart, as I say, stood somewhere where I could only really see him out of the corner

of my eye. And here I came up against something puzzling, for Shaw was not only Wagner's champion, but also Mozart's. I can still feel the indignation I experienced when he insisted, as he does throughout his music criticism, that Mozart was a greater artist than Beethoven; Lucifer trying to throw God out of Heaven would not have struck me as of greater impiety.

Shaw, obviously, had missed the point (he had to miss it, or rewrite his own life), and analyzed Mozart's superiority to Beethoven in terms of greater originality; the pioneer is a more creative figure than a consolidator. The argument is a nonsense in itself, and greater nonsense as a substitute for the real argument, but the burr clung to my mind, and eventually, as Mozart grew and grew in my heart (he has not stopped growing yet), I began to realize that Shaw had stumbled accidentally upon the most profound truth of all. So perhaps he prepared my bloodstream for the healing antibody of Mozart, too.

All music-lovers, it is true, dwell in a golden age of the past, and I would listen unbelieve as I was told how my heroes and heroines could not hold a candle to Melchior and Leider, Ponselle and Lehmann, Caruso and Chaliapin, Kreisler, Paderewski, Casals, Rachmaninoff, Ysaye.

I didn't believe my elders, and do not expect my juniors to believe me, for if every generation is right then either there has been a consistent decline in musical standards from the day that music was born, or distance lends enchantment to the hearing. Or perhaps not, perhaps the Second World War, a watershed for so much in our world, and the end of so much that was precious and irreplaceable, swept away something from the arts too, and left behind only something lesser. Perhaps a musical golden age did close in September 1939, and perhaps my generation did have the good fortune to hear its very last echoes immediately after the war ended, before those echoes faded for ever.

And yet it remains abundantly true that listening to beautiful music, well played and sung, in one of the more charming festival centres of Europe, is an experience to be compared with the very best that life can offer.

To look across the hurrying river at the Cathedral of Salzburg from the windows of a room at the Osterreichischer Hof, its sill alive with window-boxes full of geraniums; to leave that room and stroll over to Tomasselli's, there to consume a cup of chocolate and a pastry of diabolically deceptive lightness, accompanied by an immense amount of whipped cream; to go from there, at the same leisurely pace, into the Festspielhaus, and there hear Mozart sung by a fine cast and played by the Vienna Philharmonic under one of the world's leading conductors, to dine

after the performance in a simple wine-house; to emerge into a balmy evening, and to wander for an hour, before going to bed, through the streets of the old town; to return to the hotel with head and heart and soul full of the Countess's "*Perdona, perdona*," and the chorus of benediction and joy which follows it; this is to pass a day at a level of pleasure and fulfillment that is not easily surpassed.

And if that seems too grand, and something simpler is sought, try this. Leave a less luxurious hotel in Aldeburgh and stroll up the High Street to the Festival Office in its handsome Georgian building; catch the bus outside, full of music-goers, friendliness and expectation; travel through the lanes to Snape; hear there a recital of songs, carefully balanced between the familiar and unfamiliar, by one of England's loveliest voices; eat simply but well of fresh natural food; return to the hotel, there to be lulled to sleep by the sound of a gentle sea; the experience will be very different from the one in Salzburg, but the peace and satisfaction at the end of it will be of a like quality.

© 1981 Bernard Levin

Nowadays I listen far more often to the Beethoven quartets, particularly the late ones, than to the symphonies



Bernard Levin with the Amadeus Quartet, who are to appear in a special edition of The Levin Interviews on Boxing Day (BBC 2, 9.15 pm)



## GLC South Bank Concert Halls

General Administrator: Michael Kay  
Ticket reservations only: 928 3191 Mondays to Saturdays  
from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.  
Information: 928 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have  
already been made: 928 2972. S.A.E. with postal applications.

## STUDENT STANDBY TICKET SCHEME

For information on ticket availability on day of performance only,  
telephone 01-555 5522.

Today 12 Dec 8.00 p.m. 5.00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS CONCERTS Artists Inc: Lyle, Bygrave (Open solo), Bratton, Davies, Woodward, L. Gully, The Riversingers (4 pm only). The Cambridge Singers, De- burgh School Choir, Madras College Trinity Boys Choir, Lyle, Richard, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2
---	--



**ring 01-278 9351**









Travel/Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## Washington/Anthony Holden Spell of the capital

As Voltaire didn't say: I've always opposed Concorde politically, but I'll defend to the death my right to fly in it. Especially if it's taking me to Washington.

Only businessmen, I suppose, and others on vast corporate expenses, plus the odd film star, pop star, rich man or thief, can afford this extraordinary fantasy: across the Atlantic in under four hours, stepping off fresh enough to renegotiate Salt 2. I arrived so quickly my wife was an hour late arriving from downtown Washington to pick me up. And I had just called her (free) from the Concorde lounge at Heathrow.

No jet-lag. The only side-effect, in either direction, is drunkenness, so eager are British Airways to play the fortunate few with that heady brand of Champagne they serve in the upper ether. It's the nearest, I guess, I'll ever get to heaven.

As is, I insist on adding, the destination. British tourists are just plain dumb about Washington - Concorde travellers, of course, are too busy locked in meetings to look around themselves - but it must rank as the world's most underrated city. As the new generation of cut-rate transatlantic wanderers gazes at New York City with a wild surmise, turns Miami Beach into Torremolinos out of Blackpool, succumbs to the mental torpor of the West Coast, the nation's capital goes neglected. Yet it is perhaps the most beautiful in the land.

There are no skyscrapers: a local ordinance decrees that no building may exceed in height the dome of the US Capitol. Its vast white marble paces cradle a majestic unrivalled since Ancient Rome - to which, at the time of Reagan's inauguration last January, it bore an uneasy resemblance. All earthly power is here.

You can sniff power in the air as you range the great federal quadrangle from the Capitol to the Pentagon, from the State Department to the White House, the only residence of a head of state throughout the free world

open to the public. How many Britons ever set foot inside 10 Downing Street or Buckingham Palace? In Washington, the FBI will even let you roam the J. Edgar Hoover Building, their headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue. At the National Archives, you can listen to the Nixon tapes complete with expletives undelated.

No culture? Seven live theatres, endless cinemas, plus the Library of Congress concerts, the National Gallery, the Phillips Collection and the Kennedy Centre, which houses an opera house, a concert hall and two more theatres. The Air and Space Museum, newborn prodigy of the state's Smithsonian, is to my mind the world's most exciting exhibition hall.

Try to hit those 10 magic days in late March or early April when the District of Columbia is what we journalists call a riot of blossom, the blossoming of a Japanese gift of cherry-blossom trees recently reglorified by Lady Bird Johnson. Each year for three Aprils, I walked to work on a carpet of petals.

View the world's most powerful city from the top of the Washington monument. Weep in the Lincoln memorial at dusk. Gaze with an even wilder surmise at the huge British Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue, an instant Polaroid of Britain's past still laid on at your and my expense. London is not just a drabber home, but a dirtier, less welcoming and less democratic place. If you thought you'd seen Chelsea - if indeed you thought you liked Chelsea - take a stroll round Georgetown. You business travellers, of course, won't have the time. Another reason I'm glad I chose a trade rather than a profession.

British Airways Flies Concorde to Washington three times a week. Outward flights are on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and £395. Return flights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday cost £385.50. The round trips costs just £45.50 more than 1st Class.

## Boxing day travel

British Rail's decision to run no trains in England and Wales on Boxing Day may seriously inconvenience thousands of sun seekers and skiers whose holidays begin or end on December 26th.

Holidaymakers relying on public transport between London and Gatwick have only one choice, the Green Line coach service. Coaches will leave Victoria hourly from 6.10 am to 9.10 pm. The journey costs £1.80.

London Underground services on Boxing Day are limited, and many stations will be closed for the day. Services will not begin until between 9.30 am and 10 am, depending on the line, but the Heathrow airport link with central London will be operating.

London Transport's Airbus services from central London to Heathrow will be running at 40 minute intervals from 6.40 am to 9.30 pm. There are pick-up points at Victoria and Paddington and the journey costs £2.

Holidaymakers who use their own cars will face charges of up to £35 for two weeks in airport car parks. Parking in the multi-storey parks adjoining the terminal at Gatwick costs £3.50 per day for the first five days, and £1.75 per day thereafter. Gatwick's open air long-term car park, with free shuttle bus to the terminal, costs £1.75 per day. Heathrow's long term car park costs £2.30 per day. Glasgow's £1.80.

None of the main tour operators is reporting cancellations caused by Boxing Day transport difficulties, but most have received requests for advice on how to get to airports. John Morgan has already sent advice on alternatives to rail travel to skiers travelling with the firm on Boxing Day.

If previous years are anything to go by, taxis and hire cars over the Christmas holidays may be few and far between, so travellers should check the availability of public services for their journeys or make reliable alternative arrangements.

S. C. P.

## Flying East/Derek Harris Cheap fares trial

Cheap airline tickets, hitherto available largely through the discount agency outlets known as "bucket shops," go on sale in high street travel agents from Monday.

Seven Far East destinations, including Tokyo and Singapore, are involved after a deal between British Airways and the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). ABTA had long been trying to get a slice of the discount action for all its members and British Airways finally agreed last month to place what it described as a considerable number of discounted tickets their way for an experimental three-month period starting on January 1.

How big a supply of tickets actually becomes available remains to be seen since the number will vary from day to day and route to route.

There is also the question of which type of traveller will be attracted to the tickets. These tickets are bookable only a fortnight before departure and most holidaymakers or those visiting friends and relatives usually want to book well in advance.

Yet business travellers may be put off by the inflexibility of the discounted tickets: cancellation of a booking, even if it is only to vary the date, involves heavy charges. The tickets allow for no stopovers.

But the discounted tickets are cheaper, if only marginally in some cases, compared with advanced passenger excursion tickets (APEX) where these are available.

APEX offers tend to be seasonal, involve a minimum stay of 14 days and have to be booked a month in advance. The question is: how will the discount offers compare with "bucket shop" prices and sound specialists in Far East travel? First offers from the regular travel agents are now emerging and comparisons can start to be made.

The destinations involved in the British Airways-ABTA deal are: Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Osaka, Singapore and Tokyo. Hongkong does not feature in the deal for the obvious reason that low-price tickets are already readily available through travel agents since the British Government moved to an "open skies" policy on this route last year.

The APEX fare to Hongkong, for instance, is running at about £480. Yet to Tokyo the full IATA economy fare is £1,577. But via Hongkong the cost on normal tickets can be £700 or less using this low-fare gateway to destinations along the Pacific rim from Japan to Australia.

Lynn Poly, one of the bigger travel agency chains in the high street, has produced its price list for the British Airways discount fares and Tokyo will cost £615. That is a better than 60 per cent saving on the IATA tariff.

The other Lynn Poly fares on offer are: Bangkok, £374; Jakarta, £429; Kuala Lumpur, £429; Manila, £407; Osaka, £615; Singapore, £429.

## Winter holiday discount news

There is plenty of discount action on the ski scene this week, and winter sun reductions are increasing. Penurious sunshine seekers who want to book winter or summer holidays now may like to take advantage of Olympic Holidays reduced booking deposit. Until the end of December the deposit is reduced from £25 to £5.

Skiing offers in addition to the discounted holidays mentioned in the table include new deals from John Morgan and Club Mark Warner. Discounts of between £40 and £75 on all ski-drive chalet holidays from John Morgan are available for the week beginning December 19 in Meribel, Courchevel, Megeve, Argentiere and La Plagne.

In Val d'Isere, Meribel, Courchevel, and Verbier, Club Mark Warner have discounts of up to £75 on one week holidays and £90 on two weeks throughout January.

The first of the January discounts for winter sun and snow are now beginning to appear. Many tour operators have not yet announced January discounts so there should be more to come.

S. C. P.

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Saving	Conditions
SKING					
Morgins, Switzerland	7 b&b	Global	£135	£20	Dec 19
Livigno, Italy	7 h/b	Global	£119	£40	Dec 19
Soll, Austria	7 b&b	Global	£125	£20	Dec 19
Madesimo, Italy	14 h/b	Skiscene	£164/201	£20	Jan 16, also Luton
Macugnaga, Italy	14 h/b	Skiscene	£159	£20	Jan 16, also Luton
Meribel, France	7 i/b	Ski Sunburst	£153	£40	Dec 19
Verbier, Switzerland	7 i/b	Ski Sunburst	£143	£40	Dec 19
Val d'Isere, France	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£109	£100	Dec 19
Val d'Aure, France	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£159	£80	Dec 26
Meribel	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£159	£90	Dec 26
Courchevel, France	7 i/b	Ski 3V	£215	£44	Dec 19
Les Arcs, France	14 s/c	Erna Low	£254	£75	Dec 19, Heathrow
Flaine, France	14 i/b	Erna Low	£422	£60	Dec 19, Heathrow
Meribel	7 i/b	Snowtime	£145	£80	Dec 19
Andorra	7 b&b	Young World	£129	£20	Dec 19, coach from London
Bardonecchia, Italy	7/14 s/c	Thomson	£75/99	£30	Dec 5 Jan, also Luton, Manchester & Glasgow
Meribel	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£189	£50	Dec 19
Meribel	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£199	£25	Jan 2
WINTER SUN					
St. Lucia, Caribbean	7 s/c, h/b	Pegasus	£386/636	£150	Jan 2, Luton
St. Lucia	21 s/c, h/b	Pegasus	£495/1,252	£75	Jan 8, Luton
Portugal	7	Silair	£89	£71	Dec 13, fly-drive
Tunisia	7 i/b	Thomson	£99	£59	Dec 17, Luton
Malta	4 h/b	Thomson	£109	£45	Dec 18, Manchester
Majorca	3 h/b	Thomson	£89	£32	Dec 18, Glasgow
Algarve	7/14 h/b	Thomas Cook	£110/154	£20	Jan 10, Manchester
Malta	14 h/b	Portland	£130	£114	Dec 18, Luton
Majorca	7 i/b	Portland	£129	£33	Dec 19
Tunisia	7 i/b	Portland	£129	£53	Dec 19
Madeira	14 b&b	Tjareborg	£191	£50	Jan 3 & 10
Malta	7 s/c	Tjareborg	£109	£57	Dec 19
Algarve	7 b&b	Tjareborg	£92	£32	Jan 10 & 17

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. \*May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111, Tjareborg telephone 01-499 8676 and 061-236 9511.



Beneath the stony gaze of the city's Lincoln Memorial

# Our America. Your way. Great deals.

Pan Am Fly/Drive  
USA & Canada

Pan Am Fly/Drive is the real value route into the USA and Canada you want to see - a uniquely flexible package that lets you go wherever you want. At your own pace.

Choose exactly the combination of wide-bodied air travel, car rental, hotel vouchers and travel insurance that suits your needs whether you are planning a holiday, visiting friends or making a business trip.

Pan Am Fly/Drive car rental prices are really low, from as little as £27 a week with unlimited mileage.

You'll also get Pan Am's specially low air fares, and great value hotel vouchers accepted by thousands of good hotels.

And no surcharges. Once you've paid, Pan Am Fly/Drive prices are guaranteed.

So ask your Travel Agent for our Fly/Drive brochure now. Or call us on 01-629 8262.

Or fill in this coupon and send it off today.

To: Pan Am Fly/Drive, Department B,  
14 Old Park Lane, London W1.

Please send me your 1982 Fly/Drive  
colour brochure.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

TTT

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE CREAM OF NORMANDY  
- Neil Mencher  
For a free copy of this beautifully  
illustrated booklet on D-Day and  
Rouen together with copies of our  
brochure in these languages:  
French, Dutch, German or write to:  
TIME OFF 24 Chester Close  
LONDON SW1X 7ED. 01-236 9576  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Romance of the Metro  
- Lyn Macdonald  
For a free copy of this original and  
fascinating essay on the Paris  
metro evoking the very history of  
France, together with our brochure  
on individual inclusive holidays to  
that beautiful city, write or phone:  
Times 011 Ltd, 24 Chester Close  
LONDON SW1X 7ED. 01-236 9576  
\*\*\*\*\*





Today could be the first of a 15-day countdown to zero for the International Year of Disabled People. Instead it is the beginning of a 10-year plan spearheaded by a team called the Snowdon Council, with Lord Snowdon as its president.

The formation of the Council is the first move in a Plan for Action developed by Sir Christopher Aston, and it will involve first the heads of the leading national disability authorities. Among them will be the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, Mencap (for the mentally handicapped), ASBA (Spinafida Association), the Spastics Society, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. Smaller organizations will also be asked to contribute and become associate members.

The aims set out in the 10-year plan are to continue with the education programme started by the IYDP but also to be more precise in defining specific goals and monitoring their achievement.

"The success of the year has been that attitudes to disabled people are better now than at the beginning. The failure is the lack of planning in the initial stages", says Sir Christopher.

"I was appointed chairman in June 1980 and within three months I was found to have cancer, so I was away until January and not

## Beryl Downing's Shoparound FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

To complement this week's Christmas shopping list for disabled people, Sir Christopher Aston, chairman of the IYDP committee, has given Shoparound an exclusive preview of his Action Plan for the next ten years

### A great year, a great plan

able to do the amount of planning needed. In the autumn of 1980 we should have drawn up a complete list of the things we wanted to achieve and we should have kept an eye on their progress. That's my admission of failure."

The type of achievement Sir Christopher would like to have seen during 1981 is the elimination of German measles which, when caught in pregnancy, invariably leads to the birth of a disabled child. Immunization is available but not universally applied, and this should have been an aim.

His plan for the future includes the following points:

- The reduction of road accidents (one of the main causes of spinal injuries) — among other things — restrictions on motor cycles and stricter seat belt legislation.

- Removing mentally handicapped and temporarily mentally ill people from hospitals to their own homes, where appropriate, or to form small groups in every community.

- The rehabilitation after disability of physically handicapped people by involving them in sport and providing work opportunities.

- Bringing together large charity organizations, which in the past tended to work independently.

- The creation of a back-up staff to follow through the plan in two five-year stages.

- Seeking new ways to help eliminate disabling diseases in the Third World.

Sir Christopher has already been offered official money for his plan, but he does not wish to be beholden to government. Indeed, he would like to see the appointment of an independent person directly responsible to the head of government, so that recommendations for action can be made in urgent areas. He is seeking funds from big business and has already been promised £35,000, with the

possibility of a further similar sum.

Sadly, the Aston Plan for Action has been conceived from Sir Christopher's hospital bed. Cancer was again diagnosed in June this year and he has been forced to spend one week in every three in hospital. He simply says, "Cancer made me ill and prevented me from planning in the beginning. Now the second bout has made amends by giving me time to think."

His immense courage and positive planning could be regarded as a symbol of the spirit shown this year and every year by many thousands of handicapped people.

Chess/Harry Golombek

## Two sides of the coin

We have become used to the political factor in chess, but the commercial factor is comparatively new. When first introduced, it seemed deceptively innocuous and even welcome in view of FIDE's precarious finances.

For example, delegates to FIDE's last conference at Atlanta were enthusiastic over a deal with a Hongkong firm which will pay nearly £400,000 over five years in return for a FIDE's endorsement of its chess playing machines.

But then two programmers of chess computers brought in a motion for a team of computers to compete in the next chess Olympiad at Lucerne, in 1982. It was rather as if, in the early days of the motor car, Henry Ford had obtained an endorsement from the Olympics committee and then asked: if his machines could compete in the mile and the marathon.

We defeated the proposition, but not completely. A 'commission' has been formed to investigate the possibility, and one of the programmers who came up with the idea will be involved.

Not all commercial motives are reprehensible. In fact the application of the Swiss system, by which congresses of large numbers of competitors can be held in a brief space of time, has proved commercially profitable and helped make the game more popular.

The latest event to show the Swiss system's wealth of management ideas is the Lewisham International Tournament, held at the Catford Cricket Club in south London.

It ended last Sunday in a clear victory for the 1980 Midland Counties champion, Mark Hebden, with the fine score of 7½ out of 9. He was a full point ahead of the talented Finnish grandmaster Westerman, and would appear to be the one to beat.

It is a pity that the fine, phalanx of impressive young players that is pushing Britain into the forefront of international chess.

[Equally striking is the progress of the under-16 world champion, Stuart Conquest, who came third

with 6 points, ahead of a grandmaster and a number of international masters. Apparently he comes from that perennial centre of chess and chess players, Hastings.

Another player who did well was the Streatham champion, Nigel Povah, who, in attaining the international master norm for the third time also gained the title.

A good example of Hebden's impressive style of play is this game from the second round in which he envelopes his opponent's play like a boa constrictor.

White: Hebden. Black: Fedorovitch. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-QB4  
2 N-K3 N-K3  
3 B-N3 B-N3  
4 B-N3 B-N3

5 B-N3 B-N3  
6 P-Q3 P-Q3  
7 N-K3 N-K3

8 Q-K1 Q-K1  
9 Q-K1 Q-K1

10 P-K3 P-K3  
11 Q-K3 Q-K3  
12 P-K3 P-K3

13 P-K3 P-K3  
14 P-K3 P-K3  
15 P-K3 P-K3

16 P-K3 P-K3  
17 P-K3 P-K3  
18 P-K3 P-K3

19 P-K3 P-K3  
20 P-K3 P-K3  
21 P-K3 P-K3

22 P-K3 P-K3  
23 P-K3 P-K3  
24 P-K3 P-K3

25 P-K3 P-K3  
26 P-K3 P-K3  
27 P-K3 P-K3

28 P-K3 P-K3  
29 P-K3 P-K3  
30 P-K3 P-K3

31 P-K3 P-K3  
32 P-K3 P-K3  
33 P-K3 P-K3

34 P-K3 P-K3  
35 P-K3 P-K3  
36 P-K3 P-K3

37 P-K3 P-K3  
38 P-K3 P-K3  
39 P-K3 P-K3

40 P-K3 P-K3  
41 P-K3 P-K3  
42 P-K3 P-K3

43 P-K3 P-K3  
44 P-K3 P-K3  
45 P-K3 P-K3

46 P-K3 P-K3  
47 P-K3 P-K3  
48 P-K3 P-K3

49 P-K3 P-K3  
50 P-K3 P-K3  
51 P-K3 P-K3

52 P-K3 P-K3  
53 P-K3 P-K3  
54 P-K3 P-K3

55 P-K3 P-K3  
56 P-K3 P-K3  
57 P-K3 P-K3

58 P-K3 P-K3  
59 P-K3 P-K3  
60 P-K3 P-K3

61 P-K3 P-K3  
62 P-K3 P-K3  
63 P-K3 P-K3

64 P-K3 P-K3  
65 P-K3 P-K3  
66 P-K3 P-K3

67 P-K3 P-K3  
68 P-K3 P-K3  
69 P-K3 P-K3

70 P-K3 P-K3  
71 P-K3 P-K3  
72 P-K3 P-K3

73 P-K3 P-K3  
74 P-K3 P-K3  
75 P-K3 P-K3

76 P-K3 P-K3  
77 P-K3 P-K3  
78 P-K3 P-K3

79 P-K3 P-K3  
80 P-K3 P-K3  
81 P-K3 P-K3

82 P-K3 P-K3  
83 P-K3 P-K3  
84 P-K3 P-K3

85 P-K3 P-K3  
86 P-K3 P-K3  
87 P-K3 P-K3

88 P-K3 P-K3  
89 P-K3 P-K3  
90 P-K3 P-K3

91 P-K3 P-K3  
92 P-K3 P-K3  
93 P-K3 P-K3

94 P-K3 P-K3  
95 P-K3 P-K3  
96 P-K3 P-K3

97 P-K3 P-K3  
98 P-K3 P-K3  
99 P-K3 P-K3

100 P-K3 P-K3  
101 P-K3 P-K3  
102 P-K3 P-K3

103 P-K3 P-K3  
104 P-K3 P-K3  
105 P-K3 P-K3

106 P-K3 P-K3  
107 P-K3 P-K3  
108 P-K3 P-K3

109 P-K3 P-K3  
110 P-K3 P-K3  
111 P-K3 P-K3

112 P-K3 P-K3  
113 P-K3 P-K3  
114 P-K3 P-K3

115 P-K3 P-K3  
116 P-K3 P-K3  
117 P-K3 P-K3

118 P-K3 P-K3  
119 P-K3 P-K3  
120 P-K3 P-K3

121 P-K3 P-K3  
122 P-K3 P-K3  
123 P-K3 P-K3

124 P-K3 P-K3  
125 P-K3 P-K3  
126 P-K3 P-K3

## AIDS

### Board and bread: a gift suggestion

"How did I ever manage without it?" is the equivalent of star rating in anybody's Good Gift Guide — and as difficult to achieve as crossed knives and forks in a British Michelin. How much more important is that response when the person on your present list is disabled.

Special equipment designed for physically handicapped people may not win points for glamour — and not for a moment would I suggest that disabled people would not also enjoy frivolous, pretty, extravagant presents they would not dream of buying for themselves. But though some indispensable presents do not have to cost a lot, specially designed equipment can be very expensive and Christmas can be the excuse to offer — and accept — a gift that might not be appropriate at any other time.

■ In the inexpensive, good ideas category is the one-handed Warner tray with a handle that locks into position for carrying and folds for storage. It is balanced so that it can be carried safely in one hand while the other is used for steadying or for holding a banister, and is made of stainless steel with a black plastic hand grip. In two sizes, 13½in x 9½in, £11.55 (inc p & p) and 12½in square, £16.55 (inc p & p) from Warner, School Lane, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RL.

■ A bread board with stainless steel spikes to hold slices steady while buttering costs £4.05 (45p p & p) from Homecraft Supplies, 27 Trinity Road, London, SW17 7SF (01-672 7070). Kitchen canisters and bowls in the St

Michael kitchen range are an example of good design not created specifically for disabled people, but they would appreciate the easy-grip tops and non-slip rubber bases, in brown, beige, and white, from larger branches of Marks and Spencer.

■ For fun and games — a range of puzzles to teach disabled children coordination and manipulative skills. The Abstract Pattern Jigsaw comes in varying degrees of difficulty from push-together to interlocking pieces. There are six designs, 15½in x 11½in — all abstract — and the pieces are large, robust and plastic-coated for easy wiping. £5.95 each (plus £1 p & p) or £32.10 for the set of six (£2.50 p & p) from Four to Eight, Medway House, Patrician Drive, Leicester LE3 2BU (0533-523353).

The same company also does giant dominoes and other toys including the Discrimination Boards. Illustrated left, suitable for nursery school and junior age groups, able bodied and handicapped.

■ For anyone of any age, an LP or cassette called *The Old Man of Llangrannog* — a strange Scottish story invented by the Prince of Wales for his younger brothers and narrated by Peter Ustinov in his best Highland accent. The story reflects Prince Charles's own enjoyment of the Goons and owes a lot to their style of humour. £3.95 from Children's World, 229 Kensington High Street, Tiger Tiger, 219 Kings Road, SW3 and many Galt stockists. All proceeds go to the Prince of Wales Charities Trust.

■ For adult amusement — Easy to See playing cards by Waddingtons are standard size cards with larger-than-usual digits. £1.75 a pack from Selfridges, Hamleys and George Waterstones, Edinburgh.

■ For bed-ridden patients, a soft fleece to combat soreness from lying in one position. The washable man-made fleece allows natural evaporation, reduces friction created by moisture and has low flammability. Called Mupplel, the Sacral size, 24in x 21in, costs £15.84 (inc p & p), and the full length, 60in x 29in, £29.10 (inc p & p) from Bayer Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 1TP. They also do a red tartan fleece chair cover 45in x 20in at £13.70.

■ For elderly or disabled people living alone, a permanent SOS system to be worn like a wrist watch. The

miniature transmitter, when pressed with a finger or against a piece of furniture (after a fall, for instance), sends an alarm signal to a permanent receiver in a monitoring centre. The operator telephones a pre-arranged list of relations or neighbours to tell them of the emergency, and if no help is available the police are informed. Aid-Call costs £250 plus an annual monitoring fee of £40 or can be bought at a monthly rate of £21.50. More details from Aid-Call, 15 Radnor Walk, London SW3 4BP (01-352 2822).

■ More new technology is available in the form of micro computers to make it easier for disabled people to communicate with others. A list of 500 computer aids dealing with many forms of disability is available from Miss H. Townley, of DEARS, 117 Wickham Chase, West Wickham Kent BR4 0BQ (01-777 7560). Please send an SAE.

■ For sitting comfortably, a reclining chair with an electric adaptation so that those with minimum mobility can change their position independently. Some are operated by a simple push button or, for those unable to use their hands, a head movement or mouth control. The chairs are recliners made by Parker Knoll — the Norton, Nimrod and Brandon models — and the adapting is done by MacNish Developments of Urbicore, 10 individual requirements. MacNish visit customers in their area and those living at a distance can be supplied on approval. Prices are from £423 for an electrically operated recliner, according to fabric, and an illustrated leaflet is available from Mike Lewis, MacNish Developments, 72 Pole Hill Rd, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 0QD (please enclose 11½p stamp).

■ For those considering a move to a new kitchen, Alimilmo have designed one to suit the needs of any wheelchair user without making the kitchen impractical for able bodied users. Worktop heights are 34½in instead of 35½in and can be made even lower so that food can be prepared from a sitting position. Base cabinets have recesses to accommodate the wheelchair and under the sink and hob the Bayer cabinet is set back for the chair to slide underneath.

Alimilmo kitchens can be seen at Just Kitchens, 40 Wigmore Street, W1, and a stockist list and leaflet are available from Alimilmo, Station Road, Thatcham, Nr Newbury, Berkshire.

The Aid-Call emergency alarm.

Reclining chair by Parker Knoll with electric control fitted by MacNish

## Dunoon Mugs



The perfect gift!  
Available from all leading stores.  
Dunoon Ceramics Ltd.  
Hamilton Street,  
Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 7RG

## BOOKS

### Sixty easy ways to help

Among the many specialist books published this year have been several immensely helpful practical guides with a wide appeal. Here are four of the best for your consideration:

*Easy to Make Aids for Your Handicapped Child* by Don Caston. The author is the lecturer in charge of the Handicapped Education and Aids Research unit in the City of London Polytechnic and his aim was to get away from the stereotype of commercially made aids by producing designs which would help the child's mobility and would be within the scope of the unskilled parent who is just a "kitchen table carpenter".

There are 60 designs for aids ranging from chairs and trolleys to walkers and climbing frames, and there is advice on using the tools, buying wood and measuring the child. 56.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback (add £1 p & p on each) from Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3PA. Names of stockists from their trade department at 01-580 9307.

Books for handicapped youngsters about other disabled youngsters. Here is a pamphlet called *Count Me In*

by the Library Association Youth Libraries Group. The compiler, Margaret Smyth, notes that since Clara was cured in *Heldi*, first published in 1880, disabled fictional characters are no longer just classified as "crippled" and authors write about many kinds of disabilities such as autism and epilepsy with a minimum of sentimentality, and a cheerful optimism honestly devoid of miracle cures.

The stories are chosen for their credibility so that youngsters in similar circumstances will be able to identify with the characters. The list indicates the appropriate age group for each book plus the disability featured. *Count Me In* is available for £1.20 from Maggie Norwood, Inner Ring Zone office, Central Library, Birmingham, B3 3HQ, 021-2354244.

*Cooking Made Easy for Disabled People* by Audrey Ellis is Sainsbury's contribution to IYDP, produced in association with the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. Anne Davies, who has had multiple sclerosis for 19 years, tested equipment and recipes with

Audrey and their combined efforts have produced many suggestions and simplified techniques which will be helpful for a wide range of physical disabilities. The booklet includes notes on kitchen layout and useful equipment as well as recipes and is a worthwhile 30p from branches of Sainsbury or (plus 15p p & p) from J. Sainsbury Ltd, Stamford House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LL.

*Clothes for Disabled People* by Maureen Goldworthy is approved by the Disabled Living Foundation and is the most recent of the specialized publications. It opens with a list of disabling conditions, describes the kinds of clothing needed by each group and proceeds with helpful and well illustrated advice on adapting bought clothes, making your own and adapting patterns to individual requirements — always bearing in mind that all clothes should look just the same as those in the shops and should show off the wearer's good points and conceal the disability. A well conceived and well executed book by Batsford, £4.95 — stockists from Batsford Publicity department, 61-486 8484.



Illustration by Quentin Blake from "What Difference does it make, Danny?" by Helen Young, £3.25 Andre Deutsch — one of the books for 9-12 year old epileptic children listed in Count Me In.

مكتبة الأمل



## Life in the national parks

[illegible]



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 7. Dealings End, Dec 22. Comango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 4.  
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



Personal  
finance,  
pages 18 and 19

# Business News

THE TIMES Saturday December 12 1981

Solve your gift problems fast  
**VICTORIA WINE**  
**CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS**  
Exchangeable at over 900 shops

## Job cuts at British Steel delayed

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Plans by the British Steel Corporation to cut its labour force to around 92,000 by next summer, as part of its strategy for restoring profitability, have been knocked back. Instead of achieving the slim-down by July next year, a new target for completing the manning reductions has now been set back to March 1983, the end of the corporation's next financial year.

The slippage follows a submission by each of the corporation's business centres of the manning reductions which they expect to be able to complete by next July. These have fallen short of the cuts originally envisaged by Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, and his board colleagues. The corporation has now begun drawing up a timetable for the further job reductions beyond next July.

Under agreements already negotiated, BSC's total workforce will shrink to 106,000 by the end of this year. Subject to discussions with unions, a further 9,000 jobs are scheduled to be shed by July next year with the negotiations tied to lump-sum bonus schemes at plant level.

The biggest cuts in this phase, affecting 3,000 workers, will take place at all levels throughout BSC's ship mill operation with jobs going at Port Talbot, Llanwern, Ravenscraig at Motherwell, Llanelli, Shotton and in the Welsh tinplate operations.

A further 2,500 workers employed by BSC Holdings and in works in the Sheffield area will also lose their jobs. The balance of the 9,000 will involve the shedding of 2,000 jobs on Teesside, 4,000 at Scunthorpe and a further 500 among head office staff.

But to reach the target level of 92,400, a further 4,600 jobs will have to be axed. A huge demanning operation which has already been implemented, coupled with optimizing plant capacity has led to significant improvement in productivity at BSC's plant which now compares favourably with levels achieved among some of the best European steelmakers.

Mr MacGregor remains committed to maintaining BSC's annual capacity at 14.4m tonnes a year.

BSC, which last year lost a record £668m, is on target for cutting losses this year to slightly more than £300m.

Discussions with the Government on the BSC's latest corporate plan. The corporation is seeking an extra £30m for its External Financing Limit for next year above the £350m provisionally allocated by the Government for 1982/83 and that extra sum clearly reflects in part the slippage in the timetable for jobs cuts.

A full-scale trade war in steel could result from complaints about European carbon steel exports to the United States, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday. He told an International Steel Trade Association lunch that patience and flexibility were required, and he hoped that talks held in Brussels between the United States and the EEC Commission would bring a solution.

## Pressure on pound as US interest rates rise

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

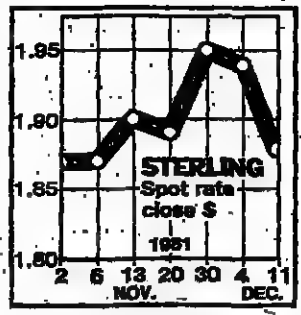
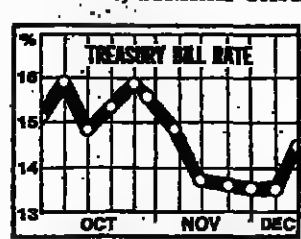
Fresh rises in dollar interest rates yesterday put renewed downward pressure on the pound, led to a sharp rise in interest rates in the London money markets, and raised fears that the next move in bank base rates might be upwards rather than down.

At present, there seems no danger that base rates will rise again as both Government and banks would be loathe to see such a development.

Although the Bank of England allowed its sterling rates on longer dated bills to rise marginally yesterday, it kept a firm grip on very short-term interest rates, they key rates for determining how the banks set their base rates.

The general expectation is that the authorities will continue to pursue this type of policy at least for the time being, giving way only if it became clear that the upward market pressure on interest rates was likely to prove more than temporary.

A great deal, therefore, depends on how much further dollar interest rates rise, and the extent to which downward pressure on oil prices and domestic labour problems weaken sentiment towards sterling.



The United Kingdom authorities would certainly allow interest rates to rise if sterling were driven down towards the \$1.80 level. This is because of the inflationary impact a sharply falling pound would have by pushing up the costs of imports.

Yesterday, the pound fell a

further 1.3 cents to \$1.8805 in London trading, bringing the fall on the week to 6.15 cents. The pound fell against other currencies fell 0.5 to 89.8 yesterday, a drop of 2.1 since last Friday.

By contrast the dollar continued in demand, rising 88 points against the West German currency to DM2.2580, a rise of 3.38 pennings on the week. The three-month Eurodollar rate, 12 1/2 per cent a week ago, traded up to 15 1/2 per cent yesterday.

The main fear in London is that should interest rates have to rise again, precedent suggest that they will not go up by just the half point that they have recently been cut.

At yesterday's weekly tender for Treasury bills, the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted jumped from 13.76 to 14.58 per cent. Period rates in the money markets were also higher, with the three-month interbank rate touching 15 1/2 per cent.

The uncertainty over the currency and interest rate situation was also reflected in the stock market. Government stocks ended a poor week with further falls of up to 2 of a point. The FT share index closed 53.3 points lower at 520.2, a drop of 9.1 over the week.

## Lomrho to see OFT on Fraser assurances

By Philip Robinson

Lomrho is due to meet the Office of Fair Trading early next week to discuss the kind of undertakings it is to give to the Government over the House of Fraser stores group, which owns Harrods.

On Wednesday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, accepted a Monopolies Commission report that Lomrho's takeover of Fraser would be against the public interest. He said the OFT was seeking assurances from Lomrho that its acquisition would not proceed.

But sudden share buying in the stock market on Thursday, when brokers Laurie Millbank bid for 7 million Fraser shares and sent the price to 180p fired Whitehall into preparing a Parliamentary Order requiring Lomrho to obey the Government's takeover veto.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lomrho director, said last night: "I have spoken to the OFT today and we are due to meet early next week."

Lomrho is not allowed to buy more Fraser shares but may vary its existing 30 per cent stake. Mr Biffen has the power to make it sell any shares bought after his decision on the takeover. Lomrho has denied that it is buying anyway.



Rowland: Lomrho may retain 30 per cent Fraser stake

## Opec agrees to trim oil price

From Michael Prest  
Abu Dhabi, Dec 11

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries tonight agreed to trim their crude oil prices for the second time this year. Heating oil is likely to be slightly cheaper, but petrol prices will be little affected.

Most reductions, if ratified, will be effective from January 1, 1982. The changes will affect medium and heavy crude oils from which heating and fuel oils are refined. However, the Saudi Arabian light market crude price of \$34 a barrel will not change.

One possible outcome of these changes is that North Sea prices will have to be adjusted in line with their new Opec prices. British North Sea prices are \$36.50 a barrel and Norwegian prices range from \$37 to \$37.50. British North Sea prices were put up after the last Opec meeting. If adjustments are made it seems more likely that Norwegian prices will have to come down a bit.

Today's agreement is important evidence of Opec's ability to remain united while reducing prices to meet a fall in demand. Shalek Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister said: "Opec again proved to be a responsible organization both for its members and for the world."

The full outcome of tonight's discussions may not be known until the North African producers—Libya and Algeria—decide on what to charge for their light crude. Under today's agreement they can ask between \$37 and \$38 for each 35-gallon barrel. They are currently charging \$37.50 whereas Nigeria is asking \$1 less for the same quality of crude. Light oils are especially suited to refining into petrol.

Shalek Yamani thought other oil producers, like Mexico, Malaysia, African countries, and the North Sea, might have to follow suit and reduce their prices.

## Fall in receipts kills home-loan hopes

By Lorna Bourke

A slump in building societies' net receipts, coupled with rising interest rates in the money markets, has effectively killed off any hope of a cut in mortgage rates in the near future.

Net receipts in November fell to £65m, the lowest since December, 1976, when the societies took only £13m, and the societies blame the decline on the Government's drive to sell National Savings securities.

Withdrawals from building society accounts reached a record high level at £2,156m virtually cancelling out the gross receipts of £2,221m, and this appears to confirm that investors have been switching into National Savings. November net sales of National Savings securities—mainly index-linked and 23rd issue saving certificates—are expected to top £1,500m, almost £1,000m more than the October figure.

Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association, said: "It is increasingly difficult for societies, or indeed any private sector institution, to compete in the same market as the Government, which can call on the taxpayer to service its debt."

Money coming into societies is at such a low ebb that some societies must have experienced an actual outflow of funds. In many instances, the only factor which has enabled societies to continue lending at current levels has been the flow of funds from borrowers repaying a building society loan but remortgaging through a bank. An estimated 25 per cent of all new home loans are supplied by the banks.

Building society lending is beginning to slide, with the November total at £961m compared with £1,169m in July, and the amount of money promised to home-buyers showed a substantial fall from £911m in October to £858m, the lowest since January.

## Belgian rates rise

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Dec 11 — The Belgian National Bank today raised its interest rates two percentage points to defuse speculation about an impending devaluation of the Belgian franc.

The rate is now 15 per cent while the Lombard rate, at which the bank lends to commercial banks against collateral, is 17 per cent.

Still, Belgian currency dealers described trading in the franc as crazy. Today's action reflected hopes that a 'Centre-Right' government might be formed this weekend and that one of its first moves would be to devalue the franc.

Mr Wilfried Martens, who would be Prime Minister, is reported to have announced a 12-page plan for restoring the economy to health. His aim is to dilute the Belgian system of wage indexation and it is believed that if he were to achieve this goal in a coalition of Christian and Liberal parties, the way would be clear for a devaluation.

## Board hostility to Kissin bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A large number of the Guinness Peat group board are believed to have affirmed their support for Mr Edmund Dell, their chairman. They appear to have indicated that they would not stay with the group if Lord Kissin succeeds with a partial bid for the group, leading to the ousting of Mr Dell and a reversal of the group's strategy.

Although Mr Dell, the former Labour politician who was brought into the group by Lord Kissin as his successor, looks assured of comfortable majority support on the board in a reshuffle, a challenge from Lord Kissin, there seems to be a

growing feeling within and outside Guinness Peat that the interest of the group might eventually be best served by the departure of both men.

Lord Kissin, founder and life president of Guinness Peat, has been increasingly at odds with Mr Dell over the direction the group has been taking away from commodities into financial services. Lord Kissin's plans to bid for nearly 20 per cent of the group are being seen as a direct challenge to Mr Dell.

Guinness Peat shares rose a further 2p yesterday to 98p. There is still doubt whether Lord Kissin's partial bid will

materialize. He and his associates are understood to have considered a tender offer with Hambros Bank, their advisers, but this did not prove possible. The partial offer being planned requires permission from the Takeover Panel and would mean full disclosure of Lord Kissin's interests in Guinness Peat.

Few in the City believe that Lord Kissin wants to return to Guinness Peat in an executive capacity. However, he is thought to want to bring about changes to protect his investment in the group.

## £1.8m writ for top accountants

By Drew Johnston

Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar's hammering by the Stock Exchange last April has led to a £1.8m writ against the brokers' auditors, City accountants Ernst and Whinney.

The writ, alleging bad auditing, has been issued by Mr Martin Ridley, the Stock Exchange's official assignee, who was appointed official liquidator to the firm.

The action seeks to recover the company's £1.8m losses from gilt dealings with Manchester stockbrokers Farrington Stoddart. It claims Hedderwick built up a £1.8m debt to the Stock Exchange reporting requirements which led eventually to its collapse and that Ernst and Whinney did not spot a £2m debt which Hedderwick's officials department allowed to build up since 1975 in transactions with Farrington Stoddart.

## European Ferries 'not in Playboy bid'

By Our Financial Staff

European Ferries, and its merchant-banking arm, Singer and Friedlander, yesterday denied that they were involved in a consortium to rival Trident Television's £17m bid for Playboy.

But the company did admit that its chairman Mr Kier Wickenden was approached three weeks ago to form a consortium, which he later dropped.

European Ferries deny any links with a consortium reported to involve Mr Peter Cadbury and Mr George Walker formed to bid for the Playboy Group.

A spokesman said: "Our company has no knowledge of this and neither has our merchant bank Singer and Friedlander any involvement."

Playboy's deal with Trident is expected to be signed next week.

According to sources in the gaming industry, the details will reveal that the Chicago-based parent company, Playboy Enterprises Inc, which is selling the British arm, will take with it £20m of assets in the London group's balance sheet.

It will mean that nearly £40m will go back to Chicago.

## CITY MEN CLEARED OF FRAUD

Two City businessmen were yesterday cleared at the Old Bailey of conspiring to defraud members of two Lloyd's syndicates over aircraft insurance transactions.

After a month-long trial, Mr Justice Leonard directed the jury to find Mr Christopher Moran, 33, managing director of Moran Holdings and Moran Brokers, and Mr Derek Walker, 52, an underwriter, not guilty to the charges. The two men, who had pleaded not guilty, were discharged.

Mr Walker was awarded costs of several thousand pounds but Mr Moran's request was rejected by the judge who apologized to the jurors for having to sit through a case of great complexity.

### Stock Markets

FT Index 520.2 down 5.3  
FT Cilt 62.73 down 0.72  
FT All Share 309.58 down 3.01  
Bargains 12,500

### Sterling

\$ 1.8805 down 130 pts  
Index 89.8 down 0.5  
New York: \$1.8670

### Dollar

Index 107.2 up 0.2  
DM 2.2580 up 88 pts

### Gold

\$411.00 up \$4  
New York: \$406.70

### Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/2  
3 mth Euro \$ 13 1/4-13 1/2  
6 mth Euro \$ 14 1/4-14 1/2

### PRICE CHANGES

#### Rises

Atlantic Resc 5p to 21 1/2p  
Cousier Int 4p to 80p  
Country & N T 3p to 50p  
Daily Mail Tel 13p to 38 1/2p  
Grosvonts 27p to 49 1/2p  
Lan & Prov S 4p to 45 1/2p  
Millard Docks 7p to 12 1/2p  
Rothschild 15p to 26 1/2p  
Sotby PB 15p to 41 1/2p  
Tangyan Tin 7p to 15 1/2p  
Towns & City 21p to 80 1/2p  
Trust Secs 3p to 30 1/2p  
Tunard Eds 'B' 5p to 52 1/2p  
Ward TW 10p to 21 1/2p

#### Falls

Aero & Gen 20p to 200p  
Beechey Exp 8p to 35 1/2p  
Bentobell 7p to 32 1/2p  
Butterfield Hvy 3p to 22 1/2p  
E Lanc Paper 4p to 45 1/2p  
GEC 8p to 75 1/2p  
GEC 8p to 29 1/2p  
Hammerson 'A' 10p to 62 1/2p  
ICI 4p to 41 1/2p  
Kodak Int 10p to 210p  
Lamo 10p to 44 1/2p  
RTZ 9p to 46 1/2p  
Ryl & Scot 7p to 25 1/2p  
Trenton 6p to 25 1/2p

## Russia 'seeks \$500m loan'

The Soviet Union is seeking a \$500m loan from one of its largest single borrowings from Western banks, according to Western banking and diplomatic sources in London and Eastern Europe.

The loan would probably be used to finance industrial projects although details and terms were still unclear.

Some diplomats said Moscow had been linking the proposed loan to Poland in their discussion with bankers.

Bankers in London and New York are treating the reports of the loan with caution. There have been no major syndicated credits to Russia since the invasion of Afghanistan two years ago which led to a sharp cut-back in lending to the Eastern block.

Poland had a trade surplus equivalent to \$108m in September, the second time its monthly trade balance has been in the black this year.

## Franco-Soviet gas talks fail

France has failed to reach agreement with the Soviet Union on terms for the purchase of 8,000 million cubic metres of natural gas a year. After a week of talks in Paris, the two sides have decided to resume negotiations next month (Michael Parrott writes).

## Factory opens

Sir Charles Villiers, former British Steel Corporation chairman, yesterday officially opened the fifty-first factory in Corby. Northants completed since the new town commission opened an office in the town in April 1980.

## BUSINESS BRIEFING

### Mothercare—Habitat deal details soon

Details of the deal being arranged between Mothercare and Habitat are expected on Monday. The shares of both companies were suspended on Thursday, pending an announcement.

A full merger can probably be ruled out since it would attract reference to the Monopolies Commission. Six months ago, the Commission urged the Government to look more closely at take-overs in the retailing field and last month Argyl Food's bid for Lifford was referred.

The most likely outcome is for Mr Terence Couran (right), Habitat chairman, to buy part of the stake in Mothercare held by Mr Selim Zilkha, chairman. Mr Zilkha's interest is worth £16m at the suspended price of 170p.



### Power demands soar

Snow and frost sent energy demands climbing towards record levels yesterday, but in spite of transport difficulties, caused few big problems for industry.

Electricity demand was up to 42,200 megawatts, close to the record daily level in 1979/80 of 44,200 megawatts, and the

Central Electricity Generating Board was happy to see demand restored in spite of the effects of recession.

Cas demand was similarly high at 7,000 cubic feet, while production difficulties offshore meant that low-priority industrial consumers had to switch to other fuels.

## Italian sale by Exxon

The international oil company is reducing its activities in Italy because, they say, the margins obtained on government-controlled prices of petroleum products are inadequate.

Exxon's subsidiary, Esso Italiana, said yesterday it had sold its 50 per cent share in the state corporation, ENI, which already holds the other half.

Amoco, subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana, is seeking buyers for its refinery at Cremona, in the Po Valley, and its 1,100 service stations in Italy.

## 72 lose jobs

Seventy-two jobs were lost at Wiveliscombe, Somerset, yesterday with the closure of the Kinkadee firm Tannan Vale. The firm was the town's biggest employer. It follows 23 redundancies in March during a year in which there was a £250,000 loss. The firm was taken over two years ago by Staffordshire Potteries in a firm deal.

## Cash supply up

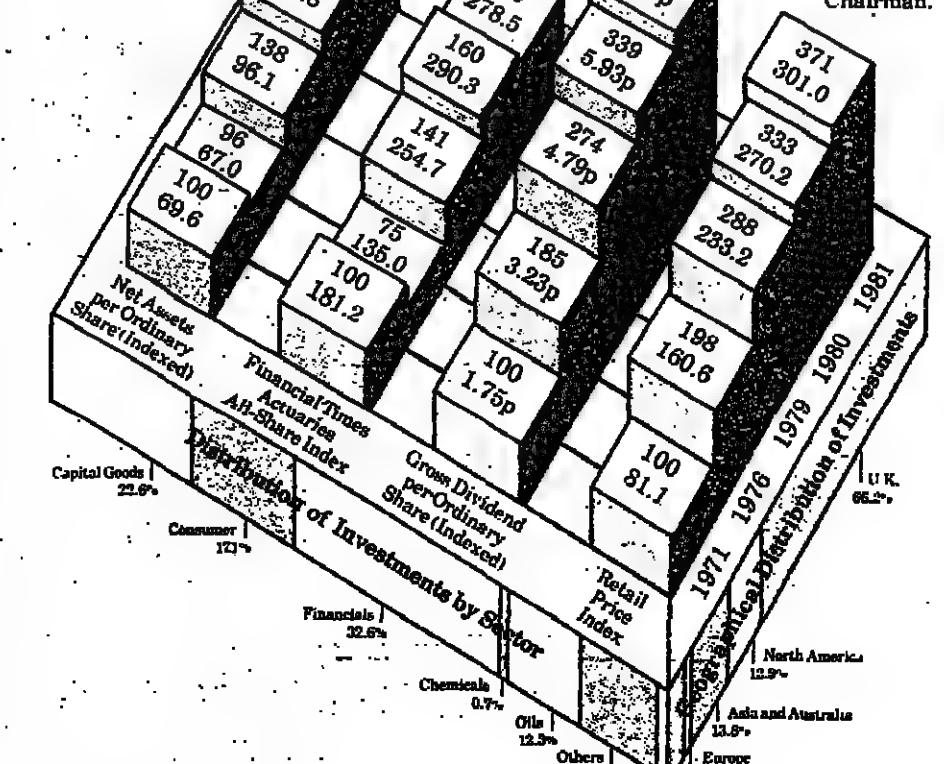
United States money supply M-1B rose \$4,000m (£2,127m) to \$39,900m in the week ended December 2, the New York Federal Reserve Bank said.

The previous week's figure was revised downward to \$43,900m from \$43,400m. The Fed said M-1A rose \$4,600m to \$36,700m from the revised \$36,100m. The M-2 aggregate was up \$24,600m to \$1,823m in November.

## CEDAR Investment Trust, PLC

Total Assets at 30th September 1981: 239.7 million.

The policy of the Board has been to provide a level of income which is as high as possible and yet which will provide for a growth in dividends at or above the prevailing rate of inflation. In this respect 1980/81 has been a reasonably successful year with a dividend increase of 10.8%.



A member of the Touche, Remnant Management Group. Total funds under group management exceed £1,200 million. Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from Cedar Investment Trust, PLC, Mermaid House, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT.







EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

# Capital gains tax trap for home owners

An Englishman's home is his castle, secure from even the taxman. Or so most people think. But, although freedom from capital gains tax on your home is regarded as the sacred right of every home owner, some people may still find themselves liable when they sell their home.

The Rev Gwyn Lewis, a retired vicar, got a shock earlier this year when the taxman claimed £5,700 from him after the sale of his half share of what was to be his retirement home. He inherited the house jointly with a relative more than 20 years ago. The property was leased to the council.

When ill health forced him to give up work earlier than expected, he found that he could not move in, so the joint owner bought his share to allow him to buy an alternative home immediately.

Mr Lewis says: "As a vicar, I have to live in an accommodation, usually draughty vicarages. I didn't realise that I would be liable to tax on the one property I held for my eventual retirement."

Like most people who have to live above the shop, he is upset that he has been caught by rules really designed to stop speculators taking advantage of the general tax concessions given to home owners.

If he had been able to work on for a few more years he could have moved into the property and no tax would have been payable until it was sold, probably on the death of himself or his wife.

The tax rules seem harsh in individual cases, but there has been an important improvement. People who have to live in accommodation provided by employers now have CGT exemption on any other home for the period after July 1978, provided that they are the taxman of the arrangement. But this does not help Mr Lewis or others like him.

who have owned a house for a long time before that and find that they have to sell.

The cornerstone of the Inland Revenue's position is that capital gains tax exemption applies to your "only or main residence" — the home you actually live in. But there are special rules for those who may be obliged to live away from home.

You are allowed to be absent from your home for long periods without endangering your exemption. These include the last 12 months of ownership — which by coincidence may be extended to two years if you have intended to sell throughout this period. In any event, for sales after April 5, 1980, the period is two years.

You can be away for periods totalling three years, or any periods throughout which you work abroad. Any periods up to four years in aggregate when you are prevented from living in your home due to your employment being elsewhere, or any period during which you live in job-related accommodation (like Mr Lewis) from July 31, 1978, but intend to return to your main residence, are allowable.

The periods are taken cumulatively, so that it can be possible to have a long time of absence and still not lose your exemption.

You can also have a capital gains tax exemption on two homes provided that the other one is for a dependent relative. This does not mean that if you provide a roof for any unfortunate relative you are covered. A dependent, according to the taxman, is either a relative who is too old or infirm to look after him or her self (poverty does not enter into it) or a mother or father of a child who is widowed, divorced or separated.

# Bids dominate quiet session

The stockbroker belt must have seemed a million miles from the stock market yesterday as blizzards forced many dealers to abandon their journeys and return home.

As a result, the equity market suffered as the diminished ranks of City gnomes were unable to stimulate any renewed interest — save for bid situations — and extend Thursday's gains.

Faced with the worsening economic outlook and the troubled listing of prices drifted throughout the day leaving the FT 100 to close 5.3 down at 520.2.

In gilts, the sudden increase in Treasury bill rates, combined with poor performance by sterling and the US bond market, left sellers again holding the floor with falls of 1/8 in long, after 1/4, 1/8 in short. After the previous day's fall about a possible third party showing interest, House of Fraser resumed business at a steady pace with the price receding 3p 170p — around 10p below what brokers Laurie Millbank were said to be prepared to bid for 7m shares outside the market.

But Lomax which had its bid for Fraser rejected by the Monopolies Commission, remained unmoved at 80p. Elsewhere on the bid front, Thomas W Ward advanced 10p to 214p after fiercely rejecting RTZ's offer as inadequate. RTZ itself slipped 9p to 460p while Tunnel Holdings 'B' in which Ward holds a key 42 per cent stake, improved another 5p to 425p.

Thomas Tilling has extended its bid for Bercel, down 1p to 483p, having received Monopolies clearance for a bid after receiving only just over 6 per cent of the shares in its one-for-one share offer worth 138p. Tilling also lost ground down 5p to 138p, while the other contender with 21.9 per cent of the shares, Hanson Trust, slipped 1p to 292p.

Guinness Food continued to make ground as it was still awaiting terms of the partial bid expected for the company from its president, Lord Kinnaird. The shares hardened 2p to 98p, after 100p.

About 450,000 shares of London & Overseas Freighters, the subject of a dawn raid earlier this week, changed hands yesterday at the price up 4p at 56p. The company has now arranged a meeting with Mr Fayoz Hashim who now holds 17.6 per cent of the shares.

KCI was reported to have visited brokers James Capel yesterday, but little emerged to indicate current prospects. The shares eased 4p to 284p. Disillers, reporting next week, fell 3p to 183p, while Grand Metropolitan, earlier in the week rumoured to be selling off certain assets to avoid a rights issue, slipped 6p to 179p.

# Tilling's offer for Bercel is extended

Thomas Tilling has extended the limit for its takeover offer for Bercel, the Ever Ready battery manufacturer, to December 31. It also claims acceptances in respect of 4.41m shares or 6.59 per cent of the ordinary capital of Bercel and 28,496, or 14.25 per cent, of the preference shares.

The bid from Tilling is a one-for-one share swap which values each Bercel share at 138p. Hanson Trust is making a rival offer of 150p cash or 140p nominal of a convertible loan stock. Hanson recently disclosed that it held 14.35m ordinary shares or 21.5 per cent of the ordinary capital, and 52,894 preference shares, or 26.45 per cent.

## Latest results

Company	Share price	Profit	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
Adair & Co (I)	2.77(3.38)	0.14(0.58)	1.78(5.50)	0.7(2.5)	1.2(4.2)	0.7(2.5)
Adair & Co (F)	6.79(6.79)	0.22(0.22)	2.02(2.02)	0.7(2.5)	1.2(4.2)	0.7(2.5)
Adair & Co (F)	6.79(6.79)	0.22(0.22)	2.02(2.02)	0.7(2.5)	1.2(4.2)	0.7(2.5)
Adair & Co (F)	6.79(6.79)	0.22(0.22)	2.02(2.02)	0.7(2.5)	1.2(4.2)	0.7(2.5)
Adair & Co (F)	6.79(6.79)	0.22(0.22)	2.02(2.02)	0.7(2.5)	1.2(4.2)	0.7(2.5)

# Johnson & Firth halves loss

By Peter Wainwright

Johnson & Firth Brown, Britain's leading private steel producer, sees signs that the recession has bottomed out. Accordingly it is paying a token interim dividend, so that the shares kept steady at 27.75p, but the company's small profits of £160,000 in the second half-year after the first half's £2.9m loss.

Johnson has been streamlining — its workforce is down to around 9,400 from 14,000 two years ago — and has cut costs by £2.5m. The balance sheet at the end of last September showed £56.7m in equity against £56.2m in loan capital and overdrafts. So the group has a struggle to get interest charges down to £1.7m, but last year they were £2.7m. Johnson is unsure whether the signs of trading recovery will persist, and in the longer run, the abandonment of the United States Trade programme will mean a cutback in special steel orders from Rolls-Royce.

The group's streamlining has brought down net assets a share from 75p to 65p, despite capital spending of £5.8m, against £8.4m. The balance sheet at the end of last September showed £56.2m in equity against £56.2m in loan capital and overdrafts. So the group has a struggle to get interest charges down to £1.7m, but last year they were £2.7m. Johnson is unsure whether the signs of trading recovery will persist, and in the longer run, the abandonment of the United States Trade programme will mean a cutback in special steel orders from Rolls-Royce.

# LOF to meet dawn raider

Mr Manuel Kulukundis, chairman of London & Overseas Freighters, the bulk carrier and tanker operator, has written to tell shareholders that last Tuesday's dawn raid, Mr Faisal Hashim, an Indonesian businessman acting through Leane Investment Corporation of Panama, wants to see the LOF directors. They have agreed to a meeting, and they are leaving it to Mr Hashim and his representatives to get in touch. But Mr Kulukundis does not expect a meeting next week.

On Tuesday, Bone, Fitzgerald, the brokers with long-standing "Far East" connections, made a dawn raid on LOF, bidding just over 50p a share. Later in the day the brokers reported that Leane and associates had 17.23 per cent of the shares, including the 3.7 per cent they bought during the dawn raid. The price values LOF at little more than £28m.

LOF directors still have no idea who the real parties lurking behind the dawn raiders. They will do not know anything about Mr Hashim, and Bone, Fitzgerald did not volunteer any information at a Thursday meeting with LOF. This meeting lasted 20 minutes. On Tuesday, Mr Christopher Bone, of Bone, Fitzgerald, said there were no immediate plans to buy more shares.

Mr Kulukundis is satisfied that Bone, Fitzgerald has provided all the data required under the Companies Act to identify the raiders, while the takeover panel is satisfied that the dawn raid infringed no rules.

# Rent rebates may be a help

Rent increases of around £2.50 a week for council house tenants will play havoc with tight budgets which are strained to breaking point by higher charges for rates, heating, lighting and telephones. On top of this, families where the breadwinner is fortunate enough to still have a job will have to pay out another £1 or £2 a week in increased national insurance contributions.

This is the time when a tenants renting either from the council or from a private landlord, should check on rent rebates and allowances.

The actual rebates and the income levels below which you qualify have both been cut. If you are a family, you failed to qualify before, you now be entitled to some benefit.

Entitlement to rebate or allowance is calculated on the basis of the number of people in the family, the income level and amount of rent paid. A married couple with two children, with income of £100 a week, paying rent of £15 a week will be entitled to a rebate of £5.97. Handicapped people may be entitled to more.

A single old-aged pensioner, paying rent of £15 with income of £75 a week would be entitled to a rebate of £2.60. If the income was only £50, the rebate would be only £1.50.

Income is counted as your weekly pay (less £15.25 which is disregarded) plus a spouse's earnings (less a £5 disregard). Pensions, sickness or unemployment benefits, child benefit, and interest on investments are all counted as income though the earnings of children who are working is ignored.

# Outlook brighter at Baker Perkins

By Paul Maitland

Baker Perkins Holdings, the Peterborough plant and machinery engineer, whose profits collapsed dramatically last year, reports signs of a recovery at the half-way stage of the present year.

Profits for the six months to September 30 were slashed from £176m to £213,000, on sales 16.7 per cent higher at £51.2m. Sir Franklin Brathwaite, the chairman, is forecasting a very satisfactory profit in the second six months, which is traditionally the group's better half.

But the figures were less improved than the stock market was expecting and the shares fell 3p to 80p. The half-year dividend is held at 3p gross.

Sir Franklin said the increase in sales was the result of the higher value in

# Richards holds payout

Aberdeen-based textile manufacturer Richards Ltd moved back into the black in the second half of the year to September 30, after the first half's loss. The group managed to make a pretax profit of £9,000 for the year, compared with £256,000 last time.

In the first half, Richards lost £61,000, before tax, against a profit of £170,000 12 months earlier. However, the total dividend is held at 2.07p gross a share. The year's turnover was reduced from £11.2m to £9.85m.

# Pension deal suits mothers

If you are one of the many mothers staying at home to bring up your family or look after someone who is elderly or sick, you may be in line for the mysterious-sounding "home responsibilities protection". Indeed, you may even be getting it already.

Home responsibilities protection (or HRP for short) was introduced almost four years ago as a way of helping mothers who had to give up work to raise a family, or who took on the burden of looking after someone elderly or sick, to qualify for an old age pension of their own.

The arrangements cut the number of years in which you need to pay national insurance contributions to qualify for a retirement pension. In some cases, HRP is given automatically; in others you have to apply.

First of all, how does it work? In a nutshell, it stances a person must pay something like 40 years of the full rate of national insurance contributions before qualifying for a retirement pension.

However, under the HRP scheme, this can be cut to 20 years. What this means is that when the new arrangements have been in operation long enough, women will be able to work for 20 years, spend another 20 or so at home, and still get a full pension at 60.

Men, too, can get HRP, but an elderly or sick person. Again there is no need to apply. This, too, applies to men.

You do, however, have to apply each year for HRP if you are at home, but not getting supplementary benefits, and looking after someone who is ill and gets attendance allowance. Local DESS offices have application forms and these should be sent in at the end of each tax year. Once again, both men and women are eligible.

One point to remember. You cannot get HRP if you are still allowed to pay the lower (married woman's) rate of national insurance contributions. Many women have given up this right in the past few years, but many have not realized that they have lost it. These are women who have not worked for two consecutive tax years at any time after April 1978.

Women in this situation should be eligible for HRP. There is no problem for those who qualify under the automatic conditions. The DESS will do all the work. However, those who do not qualify for automatic HRP must be known to the local DESS office.

# Wall Street

New York, Dec 11 — Stocks turned lower in late trading after holding to modest declines. Most of the action was in takeover issues.

The Dow Jones Industrial average dropped 5.61 to 386.42, declining issues finished with a 10-5 lead over advances.

Trading slipped back to about 46 million shares from 47,020,000 yesterday.

With the bond market now six points off its recent highs according to Mr Jerry Hinkle, manager of the fixed income department at Sanford Bernstein, "equities are holding superbly under the circumstances, stocks cannot move positively until the bonds do."

# Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14 1/2%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	15 %
C. Hoare & Co	14 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Nat Westminster	14 1/2%
TSB	14 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	14 1/2%

# Your money market best buys

December 1976, £189.75 including 4p bonus.

National Savings certificates — 23rd issue. Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies — Ordinary share accounts — 9.75 per cent. Term shares — 10 to 15 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.25 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays.

Money funds — SICI 7-day fund, 14.39 per cent; SICI Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15.4 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.5 per cent; SICI dollar funds, 11.45 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from SICI (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDI (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank — Ordinary account — interest 5 per cent. First £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 7.5 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice, withdrawal, maximum investment £20,000.

National Savings index-linked certificates — investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index, 4 per cent in real terms five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in

# Commodities

COPPER was steady — Afternoon — Higher grades, 285-290; lower grades, 280-285. Cash standard contracts, 285-290. Sales in London, 10,000 tons. Higher grades, 285-290; lower grades, 280-285. Cash standard contracts, 285-290. Sales in London, 10,000 tons.

ALUMINUM was quiet — Afternoon — Higher grades, 285-290; lower grades, 280-285. Cash standard contracts, 285-290. Sales in London, 10,000 tons.

# M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Company	Price	Change	Gross	Vol	Div	P/E
116 100 ABI Hides 10% CULS	116	-	10.0	8.6	-	-
75 39 Airspeed Group	66	-	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
52 21 Armitage & Rhodes	43	-	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200 924 Bardon Hill	193	-	9.7	5.0	9.4	11.4
104 88 Deborah Services	88	-	5.5	6.3	4.4	8.4
126 88 Frank Horsell	723	-	6.4	5.2	11.1	26.7
110 39 Frederick Parker	64	+1	1.7	2.7	2.8	-
110 46 George Blair	46	-	2.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
102 19 IPC	97	-	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
113 59 Jackson Group	113	-	7.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
130 103 James Burrough	263	-	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.3
334 244 Robert Jenkins	54	-	5.3	9.8	8.3	7.7
59 50 Scruttons "A"	168	-	10.7	6.4	5.4	10.0
224 168 Torday & Carlisle	172	-	15.0	20.4	-	-
23 8 Twinklark Ord	134	-	15.0	20.4	-	-
90 68 Twinklark 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.4	-	-
56 32 Unilever Holdings	77	-	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.2
103 77 Walter Alexander	212	-	13.1	6.2	4.0	8.0
263 181 W. S. Yeates	77	-	13.1	6.2	4.0	8.0

# DUPE

Coach and bus bodywork, GRP, compression mouldings, trailing machinery and precision engineering.

Year to 31st August

	1981	1980
Turnover	20,340	24,758
Profit before tax	40	3,308
Retained profit	194	1,584
Earnings per share	5.42p	21.21p
Dividends per share (actual)	2.90p	5.80p

Turnover in Coachbuilding Division fell by 12.8% but new models have been introduced successfully. Plasplastics Division suffered from its close association with the automotive industry but alternative markets have been sought. Engineering Division completed rationalisation programme but found work scarce. Proposed final dividend of 1.5p to give total for the year of 2.9p per share. Order books are showing signs of improvement but prices are tight.

Duple International Limited, Weaver Lane, Blackpool, Lancs. FY4 4BN.











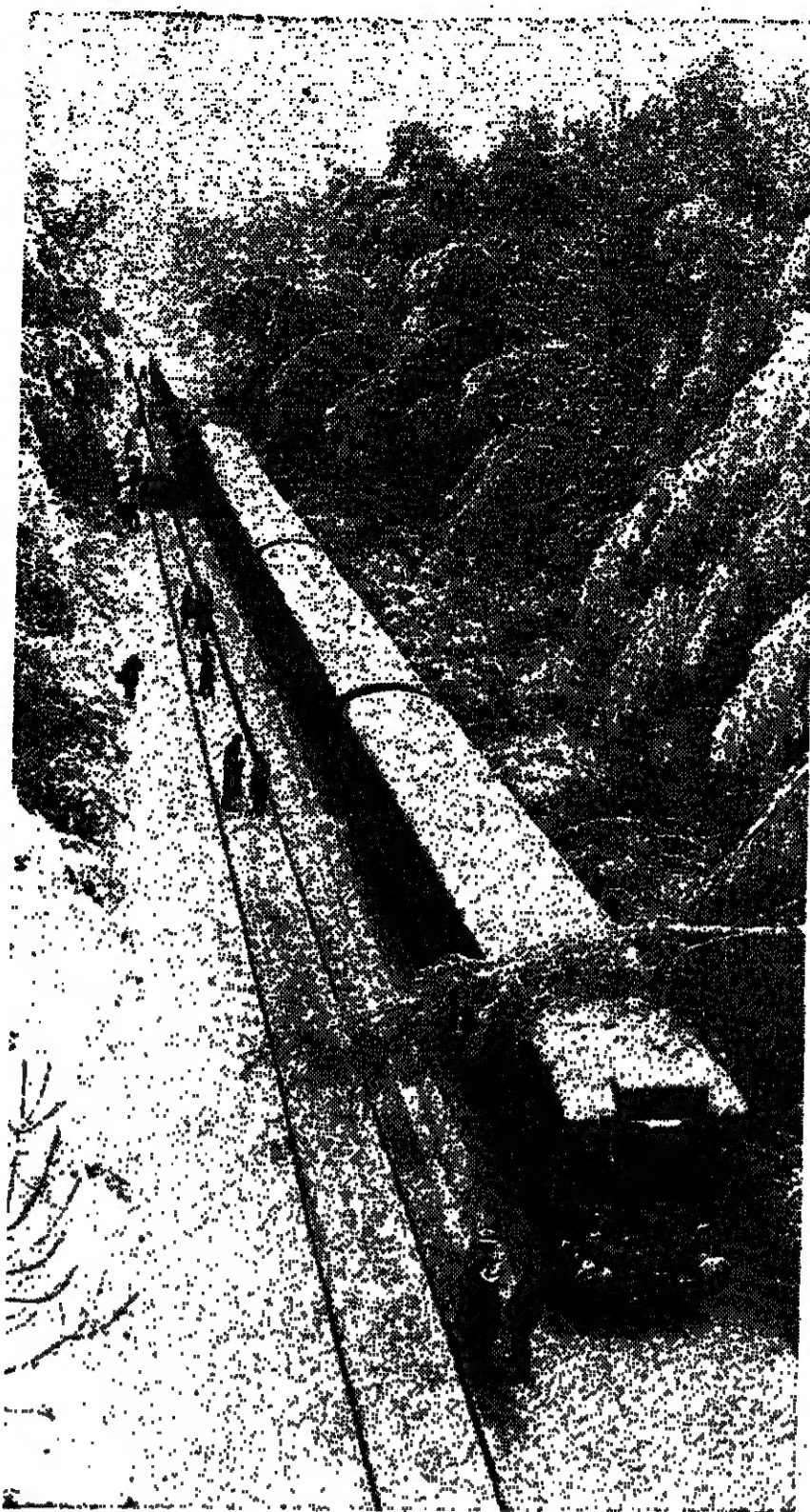








## Train journey to school that ended in tragedy



The maintenance train with the fallen tree across it and, right, passengers being helped from one of the rear carriages.



## Rail crash inquiry under way

Continued from page 1

crash and from other trains held up by the accident, were taken to Eveshamfield Golf Club near where they were given tea and coffee. Mr. Michael Hunter, club secretary, said about 400 were huddled there, keeping warm and telephoning relatives.

The Marylebone to Banbury line uses a mixture of old-style semaphore signals and electric coloured light signals. Either automatically or manually, a signal should indicate when a train is approaching a section of track already occupied by another train.

Mr. James O'Brien, London Midland general manager, could not say whether the signal was working properly at the time.

"The weather conditions were very, very bad. A full investigation is under way into the exact circumstances surrounding the accident and I am not yet able to say if the weather was the direct cause."

The train carrying passengers was a four-car diesel train with the engine in the front carriage. The empty train, which left Marylebone at 7.25 a.m., had only a driver and guard on board. It was the 1.50 from Marylebone, running late, which went out as empty stock to form a return train.

The disaster might have been avoided if trains were equipped with communication radios. Mr. Richard Gosselin, a member of the European Parliament's transport committee, said British Rail was behind other European railway systems in not having radios to enable direct communication between a driver and signal control.

Mr. Cottrell, MP for Bristol and North Wiltshire, said there had been some resistance from rail unions to the radios because they feared they would adversely affect job numbers.

The crash was the first since October 1919 in which passengers have been killed. Since 1970 there have been 15 train accidents killing 94 passengers, including 42 in the Mole Valley Tube disaster in 1975 and 12 in the Penance-Paddington sleeper fire in 1978. No passengers were killed in 1976, 1977 and 1980. The deaths of the sixth, seventh and eighth years this century free from passenger deaths.

## A farewell to the tragedy of arms

Letter from Belfast

Gerry East was right: the person who understands Ireland is misinformed. To begin with the place seems simple to understand, but the more you learn the less you know and after two years' reporting from Belfast it is time to go.

The place is a mess. People repeatedly accuse reporters of giving the impression that all of Northern Ireland is in turmoil whereas most of the country goes about its business normally.

Alas, it is not so. Being searched every time you go into a store is not normal. Being barred from parking in every high street in the country is not normal.

Armoured police cars and Army Saracens are not. Several Saturdays ago a car bomb blew half the main street of Banbury to pieces soon after we walked indoors from the shops. The windows of our house near by rattled menacingly but it did not break. Had they done so, who knows what scars might be borne today by our children.

The office of *The Times* is in the centre of Belfast. From it you can see the hideous Divis Flatt complex with its hundreds of little housing units and thousands of poor, wretched families.

Beyond there are the ghastly streets of the Falls, the Shankill, the Crumlin. It is there that the full force of the tragedy hits you. I have seen the straining effect on the faces of many people. I have guided round the grimy little back streets of the ghetto of West Belfast. The stretch of the Ballymurphy estate and the sight of toddlers trying to hold a brick at the Army will live with me always.

I remember an IRA man explaining to me that length why people had to be murdered and all the while his baby daughter was bouncing contentedly on his knee. Terrorists should look like wild-eyed fanatics but he smiled and looked so ordinary. It was impossible to comprehend the unpeak-

able horrors that he and others like him on both sides have inflicted on this poor little country.

At first the place made me angry, but that has been largely subsumed by a sense of hopelessness. Few reporters who come here say long the story is emotionally exhausting. One of the saddest things you quickly learn is the extent to which ordinary, decent people can be whipped into a fever of bigotry by a few politicians and church men.

The hunger strike was a cold, wicked piece of emotional exploitation and its repercussions may be felt for many years.

It may make common sense for Ireland to be united one day, but that will never come about by the bomb and the bullet. Irish unity will come about only when the people are united and every bomb, every bullet, every utterance of bigotry by the politicians and the churches drives that day further away.

It never really occurred to me before coming to Northern Ireland that I was a Protestant. My children automatically went to a Protestant school and learned a particular version of Ulster history and in two years they never came into contact with Roman Catholic children.

On a Friday and Saturday night we had to sound in the local bar for the national anthem, which was sung with gusto and enthusiasm, and every Sunday in the summer open air religious services with a heavy Protestant message were conducted.

Alas, this final dispatch from Belfast is rather gloomy. Ireland is much more than bombs, bullets and bigotry. Ireland is the people with their warmth and kindness, and it is my loss that I have had little opportunity to reflect the deeper character of the country.

Christopher Thomas  
(who will be reporting for THE TIMES from New York)

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

## Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duchess of Kent, patron of Spastics Society, attends State Organization for Spastics' carol concert, Royal Festival Hall, 7.50.

**Exhibitions**  
Work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, Hayward Gallery, 10 to 6.  
William Burges - architect, Victoria and Albert, 10 to 5.30.

Paintings by Craigie Aitchison, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, 10 to 4.30.  
Paintings by children from Commonwealth countries and children's art workshop, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, 10 to 5.30.

Experimental photography and textile sculpture by Irene Waller and Suey School, both at Wall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall, 10 to 4.45.

Demonstration of early spinning and weaving machines at work, North Western Museum of Science and Industry, 57 Grosvenor Street, Manchester, 10 to 5.

James Duff's House, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5; dramatized Beatrice Potter readings, 11 to 12, and showing of *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* books, 12 to 3, both at Studio Workshop, Aberdeen Art Gallery.

On the Level, special exhibition from permanent collection for disabled, including open displays for handling, with braille labeling, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 10 to 5.30.

**Music**  
Seasonal music, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Concerts Society, Liverpool Room, Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, 7.30.

Back's Christmas Oratorio, London Bach Choir and Pro Corda Orchestra, conducted by Paul Stein, Guildford Cathedral, 7.30.

Lute recital, Robert Menzies, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, DC, 7.30.

**Tomorrow's events**

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince and Princess of Wales attend service, Gloucester Cathedral, 10.10; and in evening attend Friends of Covent Garden Christmas Party, Royal Opera House.

**Exhibitions**  
on new international economic order, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, 2 to 5.

The Sky Observed, paintings and drawings of buildings in Bristol, by M. Ponsford, Workers' Educational Association, 13 Woodland Road, Bristol, 2.30 to 6.

**Talks, lectures**  
Constructions in Space, by Laurence Bradbury, Tate Gallery, 3.

Archaeology: "Twelve Years with Spade and Shovel" in Bristol, by M. Ponsford, Workers' Educational Association, 13 Woodland Road, Bristol, 2.30 to 6.

**Music**  
Carols, Wembley Philharmonic Society, 3; and concert, Alex Pascal with Black Gospel, 7.30, both from Town Hall, Wembley.

Back Christmas Oratorio, St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith, W, 7.30.

Carols, Channing School, Lauderdale House, Watford Park, Elgigate, 6.

Carol service, Southwark Cathedral, in aid of the Crisis at Christmas Campaign, 7.30.

Carols, Choir of King Edward VI School, Southampton, Trafalgar Square, in aid of Help the Aged, 4.

Carol concert, Thurford Collection, Thurford Green, Norfolk, 3 and 7.

**Walks**  
Hamstead Village and Heath, meet Hamstead Underground station, 2.

Dickens' Walk, meet St Paul's Underground station, 11.

Chelsea, meet Sloane Square Underground station, 11.

Sherlock Holmes' walk, meet Embankment Underground station, 2.

## In the garden

Snow is not a real worry to gardeners, but it may damage trees and shrubs. Frost of snow is equivalent to an inch of rain. If it builds up on branches it can put a strain on shrubs, especially evergreens and trees with spreading branches like cedars. If the weight is concentrated at the ends of branches it often causes breakage. Knock the snow off first thing each morning and try to stop it freezing on the branches.

But plants are snug under their snow blanket. What gardeners really dread is prolonged frost with searing, drying winds.

Many sporting fixtures are called due to weather: see sports page.

**Sporting fixtures**  
Middlesex Table Tennis Open, Fickens Lock Centre, Fickens Lock Lane, Edmonstone, N9, today and tomorrow.

Specializing, Spalding, Lincolnshire, on 36 acres of specially flooded ground.

Many sporting fixtures are called due to weather: see sports page.

**Sport on TV**  
BBC1: 9.5, World of Rugby; 12.15, Grandstand including 12.20 Football Focus; 12.55 racing from Cheltenham, 1.15 World Cup skiing; 2.20 athletics; 3.55 horse national swimming; 5.55 Rugby League; 9.40, March of the Day.

ITV: 12.15, World of Sport including 12.20 On the Spot; 12.45 World Cup skiing; 1.20 ITV 5; 3.0 motor racing; 4.0 wrestling.

**Tomorrow**  
BBC1: 11.10, International Professional Boxing; 11.20, 1.10, 4.10, International Swimming; 4.25, Sid Sunday; 5.5, Rugby Special; 9.45, Grand Slam.

ITV: 2.30, The Big Match.

**Auctions viewing**  
Phillips, Elmfield Street, 19th and 20th century paintings, prints, furniture, carpets and objects, all 3.30 to 12.

**Today's anniversaries**  
Gustave Flaubert was born, Rouen 1821. Robert Browning died, Venice 1889.

**Tomorrow**  
Heinrich Heine was born, Düsseldorf 1797. James Thomson died, London 1784. Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand 1642.

**The Pound**

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.78	1.80
Canada \$	1.45	1.46
Denmark Kr	16.38	16.40
Finland Mk	8.60	8.65
France Fr	11.25	11.25
Germany DM	4.40	4.40
Greece Dr	123.00	123.00
Hongkong \$	11.00	11.00
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.25
Italy Lr	234.00	234.00
Japan Yn	149.00	149.00
Netherlands G	4.45	4.45
Norway Kr	11.40	11.40
Portugal Esc	127.00	127.00
South Africa R	1.67	1.71
Spain Ps	169.50	169.50
Sweden Kr	10.32	10.32
Switzerland Fr	3.65	3.65
USA \$	1.94	1.97
Yugoslavia Dn	53.00	53.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. All rates preliminary to the Bank of England's announcement of the day's rates. London 12.50. Exchange rates for the pound sterling, London 12.50. Exchange rates for the pound sterling, London 12.50.

The FT Index fell 5.3 to 521.2.

## Transport enquiries

The following Weather Centres are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for weather advice:  
Belfast: 01-733 7703/4; Cardiff: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311; Manchester: 01-632 6701; Newcastle: 01-263 2643; Nottingham: 01-552 3843; Southampton: 01-703 7067; Cardiff: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311.

**Air**  
For airport information: Heathrow: 01-873 7703/4; Gatwick: 01-873 7703/4; Luton: 01-582 3601.

**Rail**  
Information for trains to East Anglia and Kent: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311; Manchester: 01-632 6701; Newcastle: 01-263 2643; Nottingham: 01-552 3843; Southampton: 01-703 7067; Cardiff: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311.

**Roads**  
National Bus Company coach and minibus information: 01-730 0222. London Transport: 01-222 1234. AA 24-hour information service: 01-222 1234.

**Driving tips**  
Check all lights are clear of snow and sleet. Use dipped headlights - the law demands it. Keep three times the distance between cars. Avoid sudden acceleration and hard braking - at brakes to bring car to a stop. Use gears to slow down. Avoid sudden acceleration and hard braking - at brakes to bring car to a stop. Use gears to slow down.

**Adhesion in snow and sleet**  
Adhesion in snow and sleet can be helped by fitting winter tyres - around 25% each. For average family car. An alternative is use of snow chains, usually sold for 10 quid. Do not use them on dry roads. They are a nuisance and can be dangerous.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

## Weather

A N airstream will cover the country with a trough of low pressure moving into N Ireland and W and N Scotland.

**6 am to midnight**  
London: SE England, S. Angles. Snow periods, scattered showers especially in south central areas; rain in NW. High: 10 to 12 (50 to 54F). Low: 4 to 6 (39 to 42F). Wind: S to SE, 10 to 15 mph. Cloud: 100%.

**Air**  
For airport information: Heathrow: 01-873 7703/4; Gatwick: 01-873 7703/4; Luton: 01-582 3601.

**Rail**  
Information for trains to East Anglia and Kent: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311; Manchester: 01-632 6701; Newcastle: 01-263 2643; Nottingham: 01-552 3843; Southampton: 01-703 7067; Cardiff: 01-222 1234; London: 01-436 4311.

**Roads**  
National Bus Company coach and minibus information: 01-730 0222. London Transport: 01-222 1234. AA 24-hour information service: 01-222 1234.

**Driving tips**  
Check all lights are clear of snow and sleet. Use dipped headlights - the law demands it. Keep three times the distance between cars. Avoid sudden acceleration and hard braking - at brakes to bring car to a stop. Use gears to slow down. Avoid sudden acceleration and hard braking - at brakes to bring car to a stop. Use gears to slow down.

**Adhesion in snow and sleet**  
Adhesion in snow and sleet can be helped by fitting winter tyres - around 25% each. For average family car. An alternative is use of snow chains, usually sold for 10 quid. Do not use them on dry roads. They are a nuisance and can be dangerous.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

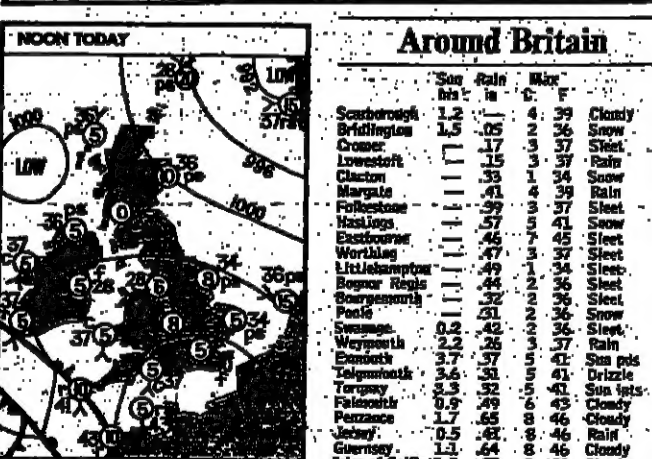
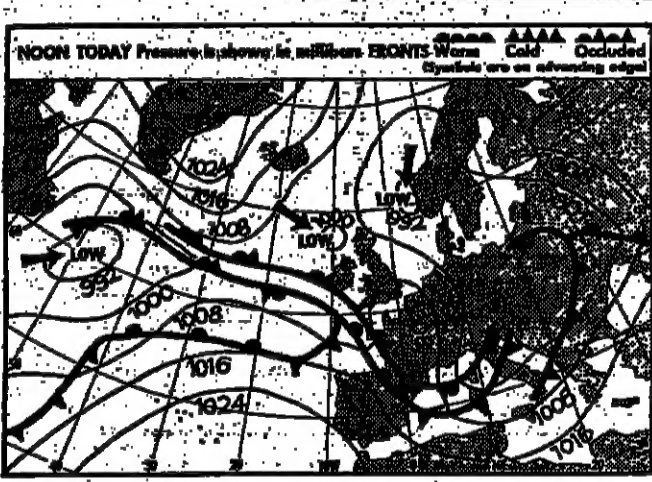
**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.

**London**  
Temperatures: 6 am to 6 pm, 30 (34F); 6 pm to 6 am, 25 (77F). Humidity: 90 per cent. Rain: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 0.44 in. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph. Sea: 6 am to 6 pm, 1.00 mph.

**Satellite predictions**  
Figures for use of visibility, wind, temperature, cloud and direction of rain. Asterisk denotes starting or falling.



Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	100	4
Birmingham	10	10	100	4
Manchester	8	10	100	4
Newcastle	6	10	100	4
Nottingham	8	10	100	4
Southampton	10	10	100	4
Cardiff	8	10	100	4
Belfast	6	10	100	4

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	100	4
Birmingham	10	10	100	4
Manchester	8	10	100	4
Newcastle	6	10	100	4
Nottingham	8	10	100	4
Southampton	10	10	100	4
Cardiff	8	10	100	4
Belfast	6	10	100	4

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	100	4
Birmingham	10	10	100	4
Manchester	8	10	100	4
Newcastle	6	10	100	4
Nottingham	8	10	100	4
Southampton	10	10	100	4
Cardiff	8	10	100	4
Belfast	6	10	100	4

1457	14 57	Rosa	6-16-61	Zurich	13 37
------	-------	------	---------	--------	-------